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THE

EXPERIENCE

AND

GOSPEL LABOURS

OF THE

Rev. Benjamin Abbott.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

A NARRATIVE

OF HIS

LIFE AND DEATH.

BY JOHN FFIRTH.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. Psalm xxxvii. 37.

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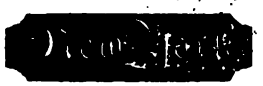

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PREFACE.

THE greater part of the following work was written many years after the occurrences took place; and as Mr. Abbot's memory could not precisely ascertain the exact time of the occurrences, they are consequently inserted without day or date. However, it is of no material consequence whether an occurrence took place on a Monday or a Saturday; whether in May or December, or in what particular year; provided that the relation thereof be true, and the subject be calculated to improve the mind, and to promote virtue and religion.

Could Mr. Abbott have given a relation of every meeting, and all the particular occurrences, with day and date, it would have swelled the work far beyond what he designed or wished, and would have led him to a detail of many things of no importance. He only wished to relate the most material circumstances and occurrences in his life, which he could perfectly recollect, The day and date not being mentioned, is, in the opinion of the compiler, of no disadvantage to the work.

Mr. Abbot, a short time before his death, put his manuscripts in possession of the compiler (John Ffirth) with a request, that he would arrange and revise them for publication: which he has endeavoured to perform to the best of his ability. Care has been taken, not to expunge any thing that might be of utility; and also to preserve the original, plain, simple ideas and language of the man.

PREFACE.

If some circumstances or occurrences do not stand exactly in that order of arrangement, in which they occurred in point of time, the compiler does not hold himself accountable for the error; and he hopes, that, if such inaccuracy should appear, it will be held excusable in the judgment of every judicious and candid reader.

The work is thrown into two parts. Part the First, contains his experience and gospel labours, previous to his entering the itinerant connection of Methodist preachers; during which time, he visited various parts of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. Part the Second, contains his travels and gospel labours, after he entered the itinerant connection.

The compiler had an intimate acquaintance with Mr. Abbott for about twenty years, and had knowledge of some things relative to that eminent saint of God (which were not mentioned in his own manuscripts) which may be acceptable to the reader; he has, therefore, annexed to the work, a Narrative of the live and death of that extraordinary, zealous, faithful, and useful man.

THE COMPILER.

THE EXPERIENCE, &c.

PART THE FIRST.

Containing his Parentage, Birth. Marriage, and Manner of Life, while in Nature's Darkness—His Conviction, Conversion, and Sanctification —His Gospel Labours, and divers remarkable Occurrences while a Local Preacher, till the Death of his Wife.

MY grandfather, James Abbott, was born in Somersetshire, in Great Britain: He removed to America, and settled on Long-Island, where he married, and had five sons and two daughters. My father, Benjamin Abbott, was his third son: when he arrived at age, he removed from Long-Island into New-Jersey, where he married the daughter of Mr. John Burroughs, sheriff of Huntingdon County. Afterwards he removed again to Long-Island, where he resided for some time, and had two sons and one daughter. After this he sold his farm, and moved into Pennsylvania, bought a plantation of four hundred acres of good land, and lived in credit—where he had three sons and one daughter more. My mother, when on her death bed, lay sick of a nervous complaint about five weeks. In the dead of the night before she expired, she cried unto the Lord, and besought him to look in mercy upon the family, and with a loud voice prayed fervently for us all, which caused the spectators to wonder, and to *cry out,* "Hannah, what is the matter with you?"

Next day she departed this life. I then pondered these things in my heart.

In six weeks after, my father took the small-pox, and departed this life, leaving my grandfather executor. In his will he ordered that we should all have trades; accordingly I was put to a hatter in Philadelphia, where I soon fell into bad company and from that to card-playing, cock-fighting, and many other evil practices. My master and I parted before my time was out, and I went into Jersey, and hired with one of my brothers, where I wrought at plantation work. Some time after this I married; and when I got what my father left me, I rented a farm, and followed that business: But all this time I had no fear of God before my eyes, but lived in sin and open rebellion against God, in drinking, fighting, swearing, gambling, &c. yet I worked hard and got a comfortable living for my family. I professed myself a presbyterian, went often to meeting, and many times the Spirit of God alarmed my guilty soul of its danger; but it as often wore off again.

Thus I continued in a scene of sin, until the fortieth year of my age; yet many were the promises I made, during that period to amend my life, but all to no purpose; they were as often broken as made: for as yet I never had heard the nature of conviction or conversion; it was a dark time respecting religion, and little or nothing ever said about experimental religion; and to my knowledge I never had heard either man or woman say that they had the pardoning love of God in their souls, or knew their sins were forgiven. My wife was a member of the presbyterian church, and a praying woman; yet at that time she knew nothing about a heart *work.*

About the thirty-third year of my age, I drea-

med that I died and was carried to hell, which appeared to me to be a large place, arched over, containing three apartments with arched doors to go from one apartment to another. I was brought into the first, where I saw nothing but devils and evil spirits, which tormented me in such a manner, that my tongue or pen cannot express. I cried for mercy, but in vain—There appeared to me a light like a star, at a great distance from me; I strove to get to it, but all in vain. Being hurried into the second apartment, the devils put me into a vice, and tormented me until my body was all in a gore of blood—I cried again for mercy, but still in vain. I observed that a light followed me, and I heard one say to me, "How good doth this light appear to you?" I was soon hurried into the third apartment, where there were scorpions with stings in their tails, fastened in sockets at the end thereof: their tails appeared to be about a fathom long, and every time they struck me, their stings, which appeared an inch and a half in length, stuck fast in me, and they roared like thunder. Here I was constrained to cry again for mercy. As fast as I pulled out the sting of one, another struck me. I was hurried through this apartment to a lake that burned with fire: It appeared like a flaming furnace, and the flames dazzled like the sun. The devils were here throwing in the souls of men and women. There appeared two regiments of devils moving through the arches, blowing up the flames; and when they came to the end, one regiment turned to the right, and the other to the left, and came round the pit, and the screeches of the damned were beyond the expression of man. When it came to my turn to be thrown in, one devil took me by the head and another by the feet, and with the surprise I awoke and found it a *dream*. *But oh!* what horror seized my guilty

breast! I thought I should die and be damned. This brought seriousness to my mind for about eight or ten days, in which I made many promises to mend my life, but they soon wore off again.

About five or six weeks after this, I dreamed that I died and was carried into one of the most beautiful places I ever saw, and my guide bro't me to one of the most elegant buildings I ever beheld, and when we came to it, the gates opened to us of their own accord, and we went straight forward into the building, where we were met by a company of the heavenly host, arrayed in white raiment down to their feet, We passed on through the entry until we came to a door on the right, which stood about half open, passing a little forward, we made a stand before the door: I looked, in and saw the Ancient of Days sitting upon his throne, and all around him appeared, a dazzling splendour, I stood amazed at the sight; one stepped forward to me arrayed in white, which I knew to be my wife's mother, and said to me, "Benjamin, this place is not for you yet," so I returned, and my guide brought me back. I awoke with amaze at what I had seen, and concluded that I should shortly die, which brought all my sins before me, and caused me to make many promises to God to repent, which lasted for some time; but this wore off again, and I went to my old practices. One sabbath-day (our minister being sick, and my wife being a great meeting body) hearing that there was to be a methodist meeting about ten or twelve miles distant, she expressed a desire to go to it, and asked my consent; I gave it: and she and my oldest son and daughter went to hear the man. On their return, I asked her how she liked the preacher, she replied that he was as great a preacher as *ever she had* heard in all her life, and persuaded

me to go and hear for myself; accordingly on the next sabbath I went; there was a large congregation assembled to hear the man; his text was, *Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, Matth.* xi. 28. The man was much engaged, and the people were crying all through the house; this greatly surprised me, for I never had seen the like before. The sermon made no impression on me; but when he came to the application, he said, "It may be, that some of you may think that there is neither God nor devil, heaven nor hell, only a guilty conscience; and indeed my friends that is bad enough." But, said he, "I assure you that there is both heaven and hell, God and devil." I spoke, I am the man. But he went on and said, "When I was coming from England to this country, I saw a ball of fire fall from the elements about as large as a small pot, &c:" In illustrating from this, he argued that fire was contained in every thing, and that there was a dreadful hell that was beyond our comprehension, and advised the people to fly to Christ for refuge; he then shewed the reality of the existence of a God, from a beautiful illustration of his works, which were evidenced to us daily, and that this God had created the heavens and earth. Then called upon the people to come unto God, for Christ had died for their redemption. There was much weeping and heavy groaning among the people. Meeting being over, the two dreams, that I had dreamed about seven years before, came as fresh into my mind as if dreamed the night before, and that God had shewn me both heaven and hell, the state of the blessed and the damned. This brought me to think of my misspent life, and in a moment all my sins *that I ever had* committed were brought to my

ready to receive me: and that I was rolling, bed and all, into the flames, while other huge devils stood ready to receive me. Then I would suddenly awake in the greatest distress imaginable, and so I continued during the night. Next morning, being the 9th of October 1772, having a piece of grass to cut, I arose and went to it: as soon as I began to mow, I was taken with fainting fits, and it seemed to me that the earth would open and swallow me up, while my troubled heart beat so loud that I could hear the strokes, and could compare it to two men a boxing or threshing, more than like its usual motion. It occurred to my mind, what is all the world to me; I shall be dead and damned before the setting sun.—This caused me to lay down my scythe, while I stood weeping for my sins; but alas! all in vain. I still grew worse, and went back to the house under great distress, where I read some hymns, that I had in a book, of the sufferings of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Here my heart was tendered and I could weep freely, until my very cheeks were sore with wiping them. It was pressed upon me to pray, and perhaps the Lord would have mercy upon me. I endeavoured to comply with the impression, and went to a lonely place and kneeled down to pray; but the devil suggested to my mind that there was somebody hid in the woods, and they would laugh at me, so I arose and looked all round for them, but could see no one, yet I dared not pray there. However I went to the other end of my field and kneeled down again; here the enemy suggested the same thing, but the Lord gave me strength to pray, it being the first time I ever prayed with a vocal voice. My prayer was not like the pharisee; but like the poor publican, I cried, "*God be merciful to me, a sinner!*" God have mercy on me! I believe *I might* have been heard half a mile; my

distress was not so great when I rose from prayer as when I kneeled; for I believe I could not have continued in the body, if God had not moderated the pain and anxiety that I was in, but must have expired before the going down of the sun. Glory to God, I felt my distress somewhat removed! I then returned to the house and sat down to dinner, but my soul was still in so great distress that I could not eat; although I put food into my mouth and chewed it, yet I could not swallow it; so, in as private a manner as possible, that my wife should not discover my anxiety, I threw it to the dog, and asked her if she would go with me to meeting, as a methodist preacher was to preach in the neighbourhood that afternoon, she agreed, and we went. When we got there, the people not being assembled, I retired into the woods to pray, and got in among the boughs of a fallen tree, and then in the utmost anguish of my soul I cried unto God for mercy, so loud that the people at the house heard me. After this, I felt something easier, but still had no peace. I then went to one of the near neighbours, and advised them to go with me and hear the preacher, whom I spake so highly of, that they all went. When we got there the preacher had come, and there was a large concourse assembled: a great many more than could get into the house. I went in, sat down, and took my little son upon my knee—the preacher began soon after. His word was attended with such power that it ran through me from head to foot, and I shook and trembled like Belshazzar, and felt that I should cry out, if I did not leave the house, which I determined to do, that I might not expose myself by crying out among the people: but when I attempted to put my little son down and rise to go, I found that my

strength had failed me, and the use of my limbs was so far gone that I was utterly unable to rise. Immediately I cried aloud, like the penitent of old, *Save, Lord, or I perish*—But before the preacher concluded, I refrained and wiped my eyes; my heart gave way to shame, and I was tempted to wish I was dead or could die, as I had so exposed myself that my neighbours and acquaintance would laugh at and despise me. When meeting was over I thought to speak to the preacher, but such a croud got round him, disputing points of doctrine, that I could not conveniently get an opportunity. That evening I set up family prayer, it being the first time I ever had attempted to pray in my family. My wife being a strict presbyterian and professor of religion, she was a praying woman and much pleased with having family prayer: so that she proved a great help to me and endeavoured to encourage me in my duty; although, dear creature, at that time, she knew nothing of experimental religion.

Saturday 10th of October, 1772, my distress continued, although not so great as the day before.

Sunday the 11th, my wife and I went eleven or twelve miles to meeting, in order to hear the same methodist preacher again. When we arrived at the place, the preacher was walking across a field; I went and related to him my distress of soul, and told him that I had a desire to be baptised, hoping it would be of service to make me better, and relieve me of my distress; for I had no idea of faith in Christ. He asked me if I was a quaker. I told him no, I was nothing but a poor wretched condemned sinner. He then exhorted me to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and applied the promises of *the gospel: I* replied, I could not believe that *Christ would* have mercy on such a sinner as I

was, and burst into a flood of tears. He then said, I was the very man that Christ died for, or he would not have awakened me. That it was the lost, Christ came to seek, and the greatest of sinners he came to save, and commanded me to believe. We then went to the house; he soon began to preach and I stood outside the door, for I was afraid to go in, lest I should expose myself again, as on the Friday before: In his prayer he particularly prayed for the poor broken hearted sinner. His cries to God on this occasion ran through my heart like darts and daggers; after meeting I returned and prayed in my family, and ever after continued that duty. That night I lay alone, expecting to sleep little, but to pray and weep all night; whenever I fell into a slumber, it appeared to me that I saw hell opened ready to receive me, and I just on the point of droping in, and devils waiting to seize me. Being thus alarmed, it would arouse me up, crying to the Lord to save me—and thus I passed the whole night in this terrified unhappy condition. Just at the dawning of the day, I fell into a doze more like sleep than any I had during the whole night, in which I dreamed that I saw a river as clear as crystal, in the midst of which appeared a rock, with a child sitting upon it, and a multitude of people on the shore, who said the child would be lost. I then saw a small man on the bank of the river, whose hair was very black, and he and I wrestled together. I heard the people cry out, the child is lost; and looking round, I saw it floating down the river, and when it came opposite where we were, it threw up its wings, and I saw it was an angel. The man, with whom I wrestled, told me, there was a sorrel or red horse, chained head and hind foot in the river and bade me go down and lose him. The people parted to the right and left, forming a lane

for me to pass through: I immediately hastened to the river, and went in, the water running over my head, without receiving any kind of injury, I loosed the horse, and immedately I sprang out of the water like a cork, or the bouncing of a ball, and at that instant I awoke, and saw, by faith, the Lord Jesus Christ standing by me, with his arms extended wide, saying to me, "*I died for you.*" I then looked up, and by faith I saw the Ancient of Days, and he said to me. "*I freely forgive thee for what Christ has done.*" At this I burst into a flood of tears, and with joy in my heart, cried and praised God, and said, Oh! that there was a minister to give me the Lord's Supper! Then by faith I saw the Lord Jesus come to me as with a cup in his hand, and he gave it me, and I took it and drank thereof: It was like unto honey for sweetness. At that moment the scriptures were wonderfully opened to my understanding. I was now enabled to interpret the dream or vision to my satisfaction—*viz.* The river which I saw, represented to me the river of life, proceeding from the throne of God: spoken of by the Psalmist xlvi. 4. and also in Rev. xxii. 1. The numerous company on the shore represented the angels of God standing to rejoice at my conversion, according to Luke xv. 6, 7. The sorrel or red horse, I thought, was my own spirit or mind, fettered with the cords of unbelief, or the chains of the devil. The colour, represented the carnal mind or nature of satan, which was stamped upon me, and thus I was plunged into the river, where the cords of unbelief were immediately loosed by faith, and my captive soul set at liberty: and my bouncing out, was a representation of the lightness of my heart which sprang up to God, upon my instantaneous change from nature to grace. The man at *whose command* I was loosed, was Christ:

Thus I was set at liberty from the chains of bondage and enmity of the carnal mind.

At this time I thought of my daughter, who was under distress of soul, she was about 14 years of age; I looked up towards the chamber, where she was, with a particulur concern for her conversion, and the Lord said to me, "*She is safely landed*" which was accompanied with a conviction in my mind, that she had found the Lord, which was the case, as I found after I arose and spoke to her. I have since thought that the child I saw in my vision or dream, might represent my daughter; who, instead of being *lost*, *was safely landed.* She served the Lord a number of years, and died triumphant in the faith; and I have no doubt but our loss was her infinite gain, and that she landed in glory.

All the time of my conviction I used to consider what church or society I should join, whether the baptists, presbyterians, or methodists; but at this time the Lord said unto me, "You must join the methodists, for they are my people, and they are right."

My heart felt as light as a bird, being relieved of that load of guilt, which before had bowed down my spirits, and my body felt as active as when I was eighteen, so that the outward and inward man were both animated, and I felt as if I could have sprung from the bed to the fire, which was about fifteen feet:

I arose and called up the family, and took down the testament, and the first place I opened was the ninth chapter of Acts, where Saul breathed out threatenings and slaughter against the church or disciples of the Lord, and if I had had a congregation I could have preached; but having none, only my family, I expounded the *chapter, and exhorted them,* and then sang and

prayed. After breakfast I told my wife that I must go and tell the neighbours what the Lord had done for my soul: The first place I went to, the man and his wife were both professors of religion, and members of the baptist church; I expected they knew what these things were, and would rejoice with me, but to my great surprise, when I related my experience, and told what God had done for my soul, it appeared as strange to them as if I had claimed possession of Old England, and called it all my own. I then set out to Jacob Elwell's mill, about two miles off, where I expected to meet with divers persons, and to have an opportunity to exhort them, and tell them what I had found. On my way thither, I exhorted all I met with to turn to God. When I got to the mill, while I was telling them my experience, and exhorting them to flee from the wrath to come, some laughed, and others cried, and some thought I had gone distracted. Before night a report was spread all through the neighbourhood, that I was raving mad; at evening I returned home, and asked my wife about her conviction and conversion, expecting as she professed religion, that she knew what heart religion was; but to my astonishment, I found she never had experienced a change of heart. She had been awakened, when young, under a sermon of Mr. Hunter (a presbyterian minister) which brought her to prayer, but in process of time it wore off again. About seven years after that, as a brother of her's was sitting under a fence watching for deer, another man, who was also a hunting, about sun-set, seeing his head through the fence and taking it to be a fox, shot and killed him; this unfortunate affair gave her another alarm, which brought her again to prayer; but this also wore off in a short *time; and she* lived in neglect of that duty until *after we were* married, and had three children.

at which time the measles came into the family, and under her afflictions and distress, she covenanted with God to be more religious; from which time she became a praying woman, and joined the presbyterian church, and was looked upon as a very religious person, although she rested short of conversion, and remained a stranger to the new birth; I told her that she had no religion, and was nothing more than a strict pharisee: This gave her displeasure, and she asked me if I thought that none had religion but those who knew it: I told her no, not one: For all who had it, must know it. Next day she went to her minister to know what he tho't of it. He told her she was right, for people might be good christians and know nothing about what I insisted on; and advised her not to mind me, for I was expecting to be saved by my works. This gave her a momentary satisfaction, and home she came, quite strong, and attacked me, and related what her minister had said: she also brought a book which he had sent me, requesting I would read it, entitled "Bellamey's New Divinity," in which he insisted upon conversion before conviction, and faith before repentance: I read it about half through and found him a rigid predestinarian. His doctrine of decrees and unconditional election and reprobation, so confused my mind, that I threw it by, determined to read no more in it, as my own experience clearly proved to me, that the doctrines it contained were false. Next day, my wife carried the book back. I desired her to tell the minister, from me, that it was full of lies, which scripture and experience both proved. He sent for me to come and see him: accordingly the day following I went and dined with him; after dinner, he requested all the *family to withdraw* from the dining room, they *did so, and he* and I were left alone. He then

told me he understood that God had done gre
things for me; whereupon I related my convi
tion and my conversion he paid a strict attenti
until I had done, and then told me that I was u
der strong delusions of the devil. He got a bo
out of his library for me to read: as he handed
to me, the Lord shewed me by the voice of h
Spirit that the book was not fit for me. Howev
I disobeyed the divine impression, and took it
the minister's request; I returned home, felt
temptation to doubt, and called to mind my va
ous sins, but none of them condemned me.
then thought upon a particular sin, which I co
cluded would condemn me, but in a moment
felt an evidence, that *that* sin was forgiven,
though separate from all the rest that ever I h
committed; but recollecting, the minister h
told me that "I was under strong delusions of t
devil," it was suggested to my mind, it may
he is right; I went a little out of the road a
kneeled down and prayed to God, that if I w
deceived to undeceive me: and the Lord said
me, "Why do you doubt? Is not Christ all-su
cient? Is he not able? Have you not felt his blo
applied? I then sprang upon my feet, and cri
out, not all the devils in hell, nor all the prede
tinarians on earth should make me doubt; fo
knew that I was converted: At that instant I w
filled with unspeakable raptures of joy. When
got home, my wife asked what the minister h
said. I told her, and that he had no religion:
which she burst into tears, and wept to think
should say the minister had no religion. She sa
it was dreadful that I should condemn their mi
ister. She then said, you hate me and all the pre
byterians. I replied, no my dear, I love you a
but as yet I have not found one converted chri
tian among you.

For three days I continued in these divine ra
tures of joy, and thought I should have no m

trials or warfare, not being acquainted with the travels of a christian thro' the snares and dangers in life. But the fourth day, I fell into heaviness through powerful temptations. The devil harrassed my soul with fear that I had grieved the Spirit of God, and that it had left me. A severe temptation ran through me, "*Let him go if he will! Let him go if he will.*" Then it was strongly suggested to my mind, that I had as good turn back to my old ways again; but I cried, no! I love my Jesus! I never will: no, not for a thousand worlds! In the evening I prayed as usual, but still felt as if dark and forsaken; after I got into bed, the Lord visited me in a powerful manner, and I lay as in the arms of Jesus. Towards the dawn of day in a dream, I thought I saw the preacher, under whom I was awakened, drunk, and playing cards, with his garments all defiled with dirt. When I awoke and found it a dream, I was glad; although I still felt some uneasiness on his account. In about three weeks after, I heard that the poor unfortunate preacher had fallen into sundry gross sins, and was expelled from the methodist connection: Thus I saw my dream fulfilled. The tidings of his fall filled me with such distress, that I wandered about like a poor lost sheep with these reflections; If the head is thus fallen, what will become of me, or what combats may I have with the devil? At length, when in prayer, under sore temptation, almost in despair, a new thought was impressed on my mind, that I must not trust in the arm of flesh, for, *Cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh.* I then saw that my salvation did not depend on his standing or falling: I had to stand for myself, and to give diligence, through grace, to save my own soul; that my soul must answer at the bar of God for my own deeds. I then drew a conclusion, that I would *not join any church,* until I had read the bible,

and compared it with their articles or confessions of faith. Accordingly I took the Westminster Confession of faith, and compared it with the scriptures, and found it held many things which were not in the bible; but repugnant thereunto: I then got the baptist confession of faith, and compared their articles in like manner, and found them as unscriptural and repugnant to truth as the former. I found the bible held out free grace *to all* and *for all*, and that Christ tasted death for *every man*, and offered gospel salvation to *all:* Therefore, I could not bear those contracted partial doctrines of unconditional election and reprobation. So I threw them both aside, and went on with the bible, from Genesis to the Revelation, until I had read it through; by which time I was well armed with arguments against the predestinarians. Soon after this, I had a dispute with a calvinistic minister, at his own house, upon election and reprobation. He told me that such a definite number of angels and men, had been elected to life from all eternity; and the others, by an unalterble decree, had been reprobated to damnation. I then told him, he was a fool to preach, if he believed that doctrine, the people were fools to hear him, much more to pay him for preaching such doctrine, and that he was no better than a pick-pocket, to take the people's money, when his preaching could be of no service to them, if every thing was pre-ordained, determined and fixed by an eternal unalterable decree. At this, he was much offended, and left me. As I was going home, I got upon a neighbour's fence, where I sat for some considerable time, pondering in my mind what I had best do; for I could not join either the presbyterians or baptists, because their articles and doctrine were contrary to *scripture*, to my faith and experience, and as yet *there was no* society of methodists formed in our

parts. While I was thus meditating, the Lord, by his Spirit, in power spoke in my mind to the following effect: "*I have shown you the way wherein you ought to walk; but your ways are a grief to my Spirit.*" I then recollected, that at my conversion, the Lord had shewed me that it was his will that I should join the methodist church, and that I had been putting it off for six months, trying to join either the baptist or presbyterian church: such a shock of conviction ran thro' my soul upon this reflection, that on a sudden I cried aloud, several times, "*I am a methodist! I am a methodist!*" I then returned home, fully resolved to be a methodist; although I well knew that persecution and reproach would be poured upon me from every quarter. However, I was resolved to obey God, come what would. Accordingly I told my wife that I was a methodist.—She asked, what was the matter now; I told her that God would not let me be any thing else.

A few days after, an elder of the presbyterian meeting came to talk with me, to whom I told my experience, and that I knew that God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven my sins. He replied, that he had been a member of the church twenty-five years, and never before heard any one say that he knew his sins were forgiven, and for any one to say that he knew his sins were forgiven, he ought to be burnt; for he made himself as perfect as an angel in heaven: Nay, said he, I would help to burn such a man myself. I told him, if he never had felt a conviction for sin, to make him cry to God to save him a poor sinner, and had not felt the blood of Christ applied, to the washing away of his sins, his religion was still no better than the devil's. This shut him up, and he went away silent, and afterwards told his minister that he slept none that night. When he afterwards related this to me, I told him that I wished that he had

never slept any more, until he had found Christ.

Some days after, I went to Woods-Town, about 12 miles from home, where I met with an old acquaintance who invited me to dine with him; I went, and when we were about sitting down to dinner, I proposed to ask a blessing; and as soon as I began, the two journeymen burst out a laughing: at which I arose and began to exhort them all in a very rough manner, thundering out hell and damnation against the ungodly with tears in my eyes. This broke up dinner, and neither of us eat any thing. S. Smallwood, a youpg woman, being present, was much affected, and asked me home with her, accordingly I went, and when we got there, she related to her mother, Mrs. Sparks, all that had passed. The old lady and I soon fell into conversation. She was a pious Moravian. I was truly glad that I had found a witness for Jesus, she being the first person I had conversed with since my conversion, who testified the knowledge of sin forgiven. She knew that God for Christ's sake, had freely forgiven her sins, We had a comfortable time in conversing together on the things of God. She told me that I was the first person she had met with, in that place, who could testify that their sins were forgiven. I left her with strong impressions on my mind to preach the gospel, and on my way home began to illustrate on the green-tree and the dry; the dry times and the green times.

I still continued to read and examine the Bible, being fully convinced, that a dispensation of the gospel was committed to me, from the very hour that I had found peace with God. From that time, I exhorted all that I had any intercourse with. The scriptures were wonderfully opened unto me, and became *my meditation* by day and by night:

for often when a-sleep, texts were brought to my mind, the spirit divided them into heads, and I preached from them in my sleep. I frequently awoke, not knowing where to find the text I had been preaching from, and enquired of my wife if she knew; and upon her replying that she did not, I have lain a few minutes, and God has revealed to me both chapter and verse, which I desired her to remember, and in the morning found it as the Lord had revealed it to me. This so frequently occurred, that my wife used to say "You are always preaching." However, it caused her to ponder these things in her heart. I saw that if ever I should win her to Christ, it must be by love, and a close walk with God: for, I observed that she watched me closely. She went many times to her minister, and he as often daubed her up with untempered mortar, and she would return again strong in her own opinion. But when she observed to him that there was an alteration in me, he replied, that I expected to get to heaven by my works. When I told her that I should be a preacher, she replied, "You look like a preacher, and do not understand one text in the bible.".

However, I continued to go on; and about this time, Philip Gatch, one of the methodist preachers, preached about four miles from our house; my wife and I went to hear him. He gave us an alarming discourse, which reached the heart of my wife. She called him aside, after preaching, and said, "*If what my husband tells me, and what you preach be true, I have no religion.*" He came to me and told me my wife was awakened, and that we must go with him to the place where he was to preach in the afternoon: we accordingly went. After he had done preaching, he asked me to go to prayer; this was a great cross, as I had never prayed

in public, except in my family; however, I felt it my duty to comply, and accordingly took up my cross, and the Lord wrought powerfully upon the people; among the rest, my wife was so wrought upon that she cried aloud for mercy. So great was her conviction, that for three days, she eat, drank, or slept but little. She now saw she had only been a pharisee, and was in a lost condition. On the third day in the afternoon, she went over to John Murphey's, a neighbour of ours, a sensible man and one well experienced in religion. After some conversation with him, she returned home; and upon her way, the Lord broke in upon her soul, and she came home rejoicing in God. During her absence, I went from to visit a sick man, with whom I tarried home all night. On my return next morning, she met me at the door with tears of joy; we embraced each other, and she cried out, "Now I know what you told me is true, for the Lord hath pardoned my sins." We had a blessed meeting, it was the happiest day we had ever seen together. "Now, said she, I am willing to be a methodist too;" from that time we went on, hand and hand, helping and building each other up in the Lord. These were like the beginning of days to us. Our children also began to yield obedience to the Lord, and in the course of about three months after my wife's conversion, we had six children converted to God: two sons and four daughters, the youngest of whom was only seven years old.

My neighbours when sick, now began to send for me to pray with and for them; some of whom after they recovered, were ashamed lest they should be laughed at, for sending for "old Abbott" to pray with them.

There was one remarkable instance, which I *shall here mention, viz.* I dreamed that one of my

neighbours had a fire broke out, and I worked at it until it became pure gold, and I then told him that he was one of the richest men in the world. Soon after, I dreamed that a fire broke out and ran through all his plantation, and then died away, and the whole appeared to be a coal mine. It rested on my mind, what these dreams could mean. In a few weeks, this neighbour was taken sick, and lay very ill with a pleurisy; his life being despaired of, he requested them to send for me, to pray with him. I got out of my bed and went; when I got there, he told me that the Lord had warned him to send for me, and that all his sins had passed before him that night, and that he expected to die and go to hell; but that he now felt his anguish and guilt removed, and his mind filled with remarkable peace. I told him his soul was converted: he suddenly clasped his hands and sprang up in the bed praising God aloud, exhorting all in the place to repent and turn to God. His words wrought so powerfully on their hearts, that a general weeping took place. That night his disorder broke, and he recovered and lived some years in the service of God; then died a happy man: but his family, who were all struck with the power of God, the night of his conversion, lost their desires for salvation. Then I understood that the fire, which I had seen in my dream, was the heavenly fire which had caught in him and run thro' all his family; the pure gold was that treasure he retained in his own soul; the coal mine, his family, who lost their desires and were dead and barren in religion.

At another time, on a Saturday night, I dreamed that the next day there would be a disappointment, and that the expected preacher would not come, and that the Lord said to me, "*You must go and preach, for you must speak for me.*"

with pointed swords, and pursued him across the room to stab him!" Thus he lay and cried with great anguish of soul. This surprised me so much that I stopped preaching; the people were greatly alarmed, and looked on the man with the utmost astonishment. After a short pause, I went on again and finished my discourse. The man, who was in this wonderful manner wrought upon, recovered himself and went away and I never have seen or heard of him since.

The sabbath after, I preached in the schoolhouse in my own neighbourhood; it had been rumoured abroad that I was that day to preach to drunkards; People of all kinds came out, and we had a large congregation. The Lord attended his word with power, even to some who came only out of an idle curiosity to hear, as they thought, some laughable nonsense.

About this time we formed a class in our neighbourhood, and I was appointed to lead them. We were taken into the circuit, and had regular circuit preaching once in two weeks; I continued to preach on sabbath days, and the circuit preachers on week days.

The American war came on, and this increased our persecution: For hitherto we had been persecuted as methodist christians, but in addition to this, we were now branded with toryism; for the methodists were considered by their persecutors as tories; and I am sorry to say that the improper conduct of some, both preachers and members, gave some grounds for the suspicion. However, to be called a methodist, was a certain imputation of toryism in the estimation of our enemies; but for my part I never meddled in the politics of the day. My call was to preach salvation *to sinners*, to wage war against the works of *the devil.* One day, major H. asked me if I

preached up for war: I told him no, I did not. He then asked me what I did preach: I told him that I preached repentance towards God, and faith in Jesus Christ, and that all who did not experience this, would be damned and go to hell. He appeared angry at this answer; but when I related to him my conviction and conversion, he was calm, and wished me well. I asked him to come and hear me, and then he would know my manner of preaching.

At a certain time I had an appointment to preach at D. G.'s in Deerfield, at which a mob collected, and threatened to tar and feather the preacher, if he came and attempted to preach. Mr. G. met me upon the road, and advised me to go back, for the mob had collected in order to tar and feather me. At first I thought I would return, consulting with flesh and blood, I concluded it would be a disagreeable thing to have my clothes spoiled, and my hair all matted together with tar, &c. But those words reviving in my mind, *The servant is not greater than his Lord*, I immediately resolved to go and preach, even if I were to die for it. When we arrived at the place, there was a large congregation assembled, so that the house could not contain them, and a number stood round about the door. I went in among them, and gave out a hymn, but no one sang; I then sang four lines myself, while every joint in my body trembled, and then said, let us pray; but before prayer was over, the power of God fell on me in such a manner, that it instantly removed from me the fear of man, and some cried out. I arose, took my text and preached with great liberty, and before the meeting was over, I saw many tears drop from their eyes, and the head man of the mob said, that he had never heard such preaching since. Mr. Williams went away: So I came off clear; glory be

to God, who stood by me in this trying hour. I then asked if I should give out for preaching again, but the answer was no. So I returned home happy in my soul. Meeting with one of our preachers, I told him how great things the Lord had done for poor me. He replied, it is nothing to what he will do for you, if you are faithful, for it is the will of God, even your sanctification; why said I, I am happy in God already, but if there is such a blessing to be had, I am determined to have it, and from that time I began to seek for it. In examining, I found in the bible that it was the will of God, even our sanctification. I soon hungred and thirsted for full salvation. In family prayer, one morning, the hand of the Lord came upon me, in such a manner, that I felt the impression, as though one had laid an hand upon me, attended with such power that I thought I should die; but unbelief took place, and the power withdrew, or I believe that God would have sanctified me that moment. At night I was afraid to pray for such power, for fear that God would kill me, therefore my prayer was only lip-language; by this time I got very dead. However, next night I prayed from my very heart, for the power again, live or die, and God poured out his spirit upon us all in such a manner, that the place was glorious because of the presence of the Lord, and his dying love filled all our hearts. I was now engaged for the blessing more than ever; soon after D. Ruff came upon the circuit, and my house being a preaching place, he came and preached, and in the morning, in family prayer, he prayed that God would come and sanctify us soul and body. I repeated these words after him, "Come, Lord, and sanctify me soul and body!" That moment, the spirit of God came upon me in such a manner, that I fell flat to the floor, and lay as one strangling in

blood, while my wife and children stood weeping over me. But I had not power to lift hand or foot, nor yet to speak one word; I believe I lay half an hour, and felt the power of God, running through every part of my soul and body, like fire consuming the inward corruptions of fallen depraved nature. When I arose and walked out of the door, and stood pondering these things in my heart, it appeared to me that the whole creation was praising God; it also appeared as if I had got new eyes, for every thing appeared new, and I felt a love for all the creatures that God had made, and an uninterrupted peace filled my breast. In three days, God gave me a full assurance that he had sanctified me, soul and body. *If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.* John xvi. 23. Which I found day by day, manifested to my soul by the witness of his spirit; glory to God for what he then did, and has since done for poor me.

Some time after, I went to Salem, and A. H. came to me and said, I understand that you preach. I said yes. Then said he, will you come and preach at my house; I said, if you please, you may give it out next sabbath day. He did so, and accordingly I attended, and found a large congregation assembled, to whom I preached, and God attended the word with power; some cried out, and many were in tears. After sermon, I made another appointment for that day two weeks at eleven o'clock. There being an elder of the presbyterian church present, he asked me if I would come and preach at his house, I told him that I would, on that day two weeks, at three o'clock. Another said it was the truth I had spoken, but in a very rough manner; at the time appointed I attended, and

found many people at both places. At the first, I felt much freedom in speaking, and after sermon found that both the man and his wife were awakened. At the second, great power attended the word, several cried aloud, and one fell to the floor; After meeting, I asked the man of the house if he knew what he had done. He replied, "What have I done?" Said I, you have opened your door to the methodists, and if a work of religion break out, your people will turn you out of their synagogue; He replied, that he would die for the truth. I appointed to preach again at both places, that day two weeks. Next day, on my return home, I called at a baptist's house, whose daughter was very ill; after, some conversation, I went to prayer, and while at prayer the Lord set her soul at liberty, and she praised God before us all. Here I fell in company with one of Whitefield's converts, who had known the Lord forty years; we had great comfort in conversing together upon the things of God: He was an *Israelite* indeed. (About two years after, he came to see me, and told me that he had come to die at my house, accordingly he was taken sick, and died there, happy in God.)

The sabbath day following, I preached in a place called *Hell-Neck*, which name took its rise from the wickedness of the people. One sinner said, he had heard Abbott swear, and had seen him fight, and now he would go and hear him preach. The word reached his heart, and he soon after became a convert to the Lord. After meeting he invited me home with him, and several others invited me to preach at their houses, so that I got preaching places all through the neighbourhood, and a considerable revival of religion took place, although it had been so noted for wickedness. Among others, a young lad a-

bout fifteen, was awakened, and in a few weeks found peace: His father being a great enemy to religion, opposed him violently, and resolved to prevent his being a methodist, and even whip'd him for praying. This soon threw him into great distress, and on the very borders of despair; at length he was tempted to think he had sinned against the Holy Ghost, and thought he had cursed God: I heard of it and went to see him: he told me his temptations, and cried out, "There! I have now done it," and clapped his hand on his mouth. I told him he had not done it, and that he would not do it for the world. His mother began to cry, and his father soon came in, and I warned him against such conduct towards his son, but he told me it was all delusion: Who told you so, said I: D. P. said he, and he is a presbyterian, and a good man. Tell D. P. that he is a deceived man, said I, for this is thetrue work of God upon your son. The son then cried out, The Lord is here! the Lord is here! The father said to me, "Benjamin, are you not a free mason?" I told him no: I knew nothing of free masonry; but I knew that this was the opperations of the spirit of God. The father then wept. I went to prayer, and the family were all in tears; after this the son went on joyuflly: After I left this house, I went to another of the neighbors, and after some conversation with them, I went to prayer; the man kneeled, but the woman continued knitting all the time of prayer. When I arose, I took her by the hand, and said, Do you pray? and looking steadfastly at her, I added, "God pity you." This pierced her heart so, that she never rested, until her soul was converted to the Lord. The whole neighborhood seemed alarmed. A quaker, who one day came to hear me, asked me home with him; when I entered his house I said, God has

brought salvation to this house. At prayer, in the evening, his daughter was struck under conviction, and soon after the old man, his wife, three sons, and two daughters, were all brought to experience religion, so that we had a considerable society. A baptist preacher, who lived about twenty miles distant, hearing what was going on in the neighbourhood, went thither and preached the necessity of water baptism, and was so successful as to get six of my sheep into the water, who left us and followed him. Elated with this success, he followed me from place to place, but all in vain, for he was not able to turn another out of the way.

But to return to my appointments. In Mannington great congregations attended. The man and his wife were both awakened and under strong convictions, and many others were stirred up to enquire the way to Zion. At the second place, the minister thereof attended, I felt at first, a great cross to preach before him, he being a learned man, and I supposed he had come to hear me with an evil design, as appeared afterwards to be the case. However, I prayed to the Lord not to let me be confounded. After I began, my cross was but light, and the minister who set before me was no more than another sinner. The power of God rested upon us and several cried out aloud, and two fell to the floor agonizing for salvation. I tarried all night, and the minister and five or six of the heads of the presbyterian meeting spent the evening with me, in order to dispute and pick me to pieces if possible. The minister asked me, if I was a *Wesleyan*. I answered yes. Then said he " you deny the perseverance of the saints." God forbid, said I, for none can be saved unless they persevere to the end. Then *said he, you* believe the possibility of falling

from grace; I answered yes. He then, in a very abrupt manner, gave me the lie; but when I told him that I could prove the doctrine by the word of God, he very passionately gave me the lie again. I quoted sundry scriptures, particularly that of David's fall, and turned to Ezek. chap. iii. ver. 20 and 21, and wished him to read and explain the passage; but he would not touch the bible. His elder said, it read as I said and he ought to explain it. He, in a passion, said he was brought up at a college and certainly knew; but I was a fool, and he could cut such a fellow's throat; then turned to his elder and said, "if there was a dog's head on your shoulders, I would cut it off. Do not you know the articles of your own church? I will teach you better." I told him the curse of God was upon all such watchmen as he was, who did not warn the people against sin; that if they lived and died in sin they could not be saved, and by his doctrine, souls might fall away and perish, but their blood would be found in his skirts. He replied, I could cut such a fellow's throat; it makes my blood boil to hear the perseverance of the saints denied. I then handed him the bible, and desired him to clear it up; but said he, "you are a fool, you know nothing at all. I was bro't up at college, and I will have you before your betters." He got so angry, that he could say but little more. I told him that if we were ambassadors for Christ, we ought to go on, hand and heart, to attack the devil in all his strong holds. And then asked the man of the house if I should preach there again; but the answer was no. So this place was shut against me through the influence of the minister. But glory to God, there were doors opened in Mannington, so that I was at no loss for places to preach at.

Accordingly preached at William Harvey's

where the people came out pretty generally, and the Lord wrought powerfully among them, and on my return home, I went with one of my old companions who asked me if I would preach at his house in Woods-town. I told him I would, accordingly an appointment was made, and we had a crouded house. While I was speaking, a mob of soldiers came with their guns, and bayonets fixed, and one rushed in, while the rest surrounded the door, the people fled every way, and he presented his gun and bayonet as though he would run me through: it passed close by my ear twice. If ever I preached the terrors of the law, I did it while he was threatening me in this manner, for I felt no fear of death, and soon found he could not withstand the force of truth; he gave way and retreated to the door. They endeavoured to send him back again, but in vain, for he refused to return. However I went on and finished my discourse, and then asked the man of the house, if I should preach there again, he said no, for they will pull down my house. But Doctor Harris told me I might preach in his house. In two weeks I attended at the Doctor's and found about one hundred men under arms. When I began to preach, they grounded their arms, and heard me in a quiet orderly manner.

About this time, the government was drafting the militia to go into the service of their country: Among others, the lot fell on me to go; but as I had a call to preach, I could not think of going out to fight; however, I had to pay a sum of money sufficient to procure another man to go in my place.

I told my wife that we must move from that neighbourhood, for we should be ruined to stay *among* a set of people, who, from their enmity, *were determined* to do me all the injury they could.

Accordingly I rented a place in Mannington, near Salem, where the people were more friendly and not so full of the spirit of war. Here I had many doors opened for me to preach, and a powerful work of religion took place, attended with several remarkable conversions, which I think worthy of notice. One was a woman, who after returning home from preaching, under great conviction applied herself to prayer; and while she was about her house-work, and as she walked across the floor, with her heart lifted to God in penitential supplications, the Lord applied these words to her, *Go in peace, and sin no more*; and at that instant she was brought into liberty, and cried out, "I have got the Lord! I have got the Lord!" Her children asked what was the matter. To whom she repeated the same words. They then told her some one was coming; She replied, "I do not care; for I have got the Lord." The man came in, and she continued to praise the Lord in such a manner, that he was struck under deep conviction.

Another instance was a quaker woman, who went from preaching under strong conviction, and such anguish of mind, that she paid no attention to her family, nor even to her suckling child. Early in the morning I was sent for: When I went, she was sitting with both hands clinched fast in the hair of her head, crying out, "Lord have mercy on me! Save, Lord, or I perish! I shall go to hell. &c." I told her to pray in faith, to look to Jesus and lay hold of the promises, and God would have mercy on her; but she replied, I cannot pray. I said you do pray very well; go on. I then kneeled down and prayed: Three pious women who were present did likewise. One of the women said, she could not pray in English. I told her to *pray in Dutch* for God understood that as well as

English: The distressed woman appeared to be worse, like one going distracted. I then sang the hymn composed for one possessed of an evil spirit.

King of Kings, ſpread thy wings,
Chriſt, our weakneſs cover,
Till the ſtorm is over, &c.

When these last words were sung, I felt such faith, that I told them the Lord would deliver her; and said, Let us pray. I kneeled down, in a few minutes she clapped her hands together and cried, "My Lord, my God and my Father!" Her soul was immediately set at liberty, and she sprang up, rejoicing, praising, and giving glory to God. Her husband burst into a flood of tears and said, if my wife, who has been so good, had to undergo such distress, what will become of me? I exhorted him to look to God, and he would find mercy. In about six weeks after, he was safely converted. One of the women present, who had been converted some time before, was now thrown into doubts, and said, she feared she never was converted, because she never was wrought upon in such an extraordinary manner. I told her, that was no proof, for I was not wrought on in that manner myself; yet I knew that I was converted. God works upon his people as he in his wisdom sees best; that no one's distress could be a standard for another; so that if our sins and guilt are removed, and the power of religion is fixed in the soul, it is enough. None should doubt it because they were not brought in, as they see others. This was a trick of the devil to rob her of her confidence. However she was doubtful for three days; then the Lord blessed her with such light and comfort, that every fear and doubt was removed.

About the same time, a man in the neighbourhood, *under* great conviction came to see me;

upon his way he was tempted to believe that the scripture which says, *If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee,* must be literally obeyed: He felt for his knife to try it, but had it not with him. He told me his distress, which both surprised and rejoiced me. He had lately been a bitter enemy to religion, and had used his wife ill on account of her being religious. After some conversation, I went to prayer with him, my wife and two or three of the children prayed also; but he got no relief. As he was returning, on his way home, he was struck to the ground by the power of God, and never rose until his soul was set at liberty.

Another instance, was a Roman catholic, whose wife was religious. One Sunday morning he wanted her to go a visiting with him, instead of going to meeting, which she refused, being determined to go to meeting. This threw him into a great passion; however, he set off alone upon his intended visit; but before he had gone far, he concluded he would return, and with malice and murder in his heart, determined that she should go with him, or he would kill her: when he returned, she met him and spoke to him with such tenderness, that his rage calmed away. He concluded he would go with her to meeting; they both came; and under preaching, the word struck him with such power, that he cried aloud under guilt and condemnation; and before all the congregation, told what had passed in the morning, and wanted to know what he should do to be saved. I explained to him the way and plan of salvation; and in a short time after, he found peace, and became a steady religious man.

A young woman came to me one day after preaching, under great distress: I asked

her if she had not followed the devil's musicians, the fiddlers: She said she had danced many a time, and even all night. I told her then, to pray all night, until God had pardoned her. She said she would; accordingly she returned home under great distress, and prayed the whole night: Next morning the Lord blessed her soul.

Another young woman came to me, and asked what she should do to be saved. I pointed her to the Lord and to the promises. This was sabbath day, she went home with us, and I told her to stay, for so long as she prayed, so long she should be welcome. Her distress increased until Tuesday morning. All the preceding night, I heard her mourning and lamenting. At breakfast her distress was so great she could not eat, but retired into the woods to pray, where she continued until she found the Lord, and returned rejoicing in Christ her Saviour.

A school-master in the neighbourhood, who was a learned sensible man, but a very drunken and wicked one, got awakened, and so far reformed, that he left off drinking to excess, and other vices, for some time; but at a certain time he gave way to temptation, and was overcome by strong drink; after he got sober, his mind was tormented with great horror, and he went to a neighbour's house to tarry all night, and in the night, after the family were all in bed, he could not sleep, but lay with tormenting reflections, which increased his fears, until at length he imagined that he saw two devils enter the room, in order to take him away. This frightened him out of bed, and he ran up into one corner of the room, and there screamed and fought, as though he was fighting and beating off the two devils. This alarmed the whole family, who rose in great confusion, and could not

tell what to do. They sent over for me; I went, and found him in a shocking condition: I told him it was only the strength of imagination; that there were no devils there to take him away: but he still declared they were in the room; and what added to the awfulness of the scene, was, at this time, a very dark and dismal cloud arose in the skies, that gave awful sensations to all who beheld it: At length a most remarkable flash of lightning came blazing from the clouds, and the streams of lightning flashed into the house, and a tremendous clap of thunder, equal to any I ever heard, burst forth as if the place had been sinking: and the very house trembled. At that instant, I felt the power of the Lord, like lightning run through me. I instantly went to prayer, and they all fell upon their knees, and were much affected, and continued in supplication during the whole night. Soon after this, all the grown part of the family were bro't into the liberty and knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

I shall here mention a circumstance, which I hope will be a warning to parents who oppose their children in religious sentiments. A young man, the only son of a professed quaker, got awakened by hearing the methodist preachers, and applied himself to prayer and reading the scriptures: he was likely to go on well in religion, until his father and mother, with great obstinacy and bigotry, violently opposed his going among the methodists, as tho' methodism was the worst thing in the world: nothing would do but the son must be a quaker. At length by their violence and displeasure, he was kept from meeting, and from going among the methodist friends. It had a very different effect on the poor unfortunate young man; for instead of be-

coming a religious quaker, he soon after, became the most profligate youth in that part. God took his father and mother to eternity. This same young man, in a few years, ran thro' a large estate left him by his father, and Salem jail became his habitation.

I do verily believe, that the violent opposition of his parents was the cause of his desperate courses, which bro't him to poverty and shame. Oh! how careful parents and others ought to be, not to use violence or severity with children in matters of religion and conscience: How dreadful, for those who profess religion themselves, to be guilty of it. It evidently arises from the same mistaken bigoted spirit that burnt the protestants under queen Mary, of Britain, and hanged the quakers in New-England: whether it be among quakers, methodists, presbyterians, churchmen, roman catholics, or any other denomination, it is contrary to the spirit of christianity. It is one principal objection I have to the conduct of the people called quakers, that they are so bigoted to their own notions, forms, and mode, that they will not allow their children to attend, even the most plain and religious preaching in the world, provided it is not among themselves. I have known instances of their young people being awakened under our preachers, and they have been restrained by their parents, and the heads of their meeting, to their great injury; and sometimes, I fear, to their eternal ruin. So sacred do they hold their right in membership, although mostly obtained by birth, that, generally speaking, they appear better contented that their children should remain irreligious, within the pale of their own church, than that they should become really religious among any other people. But to me it appears strange, that a peo-

ple, whose predecessors were so tenacious for liberty of conscience, should fall into the same error that they so loudly condemned in others; as if it were a greater crime in a churchman or a presbyterian to restrain a child from going to a quaker meeting, than for a quaker to restrain one from going to a methodist or other religious meeting. They cry out in the same language against others, that others did against them: so that they are become too much initiated into the same spirit of bigotry, which they have carried to so great a pitch, that they will not allow a minister of Christ, if he had as much grace as the apostle Paul, to preach in one of their meeting-houses, unless a member of their own church. But for my part, I do not believe, that religion consists in either form or mode. Neither do I believe, a record of our names on any church book under heaven, will stand the test in the awful hour of accounts, unless they are recorded in the Lamb's book of life. For my part, I love real heart religion let me find it where I may.

The second year that I lived in the township of Mannington, about the last of December, I lost my son Benjamin. He was in the fourteenth year of his age, and had been experienced in religion from the age of seven. When death was upon him, I said, Benny, do you know you are dying? He asked me if I thought he was. I said yes, in a little time you will stand before the eternal God. He instantly prayed as though he had been in perfect health: While he was at prayer every person in the room wept, and some cried quite loud. He then with a loud and strong voice, exhorted the neighbours who were present, to pepare to stand before God: and turning to his brothers and sisters, he exhorted them to prepare to meet him at the right hand of

God. I then called my wife to come and see her son die. She came, and asked him if he had no doubt. He answered with great fervour, No! mamma, I know that my Redeemer liveth. He then looked at me and said, "Daddy, I shall meet you again in paradise." He then pointed with his finger and said, "Who are them two men standing in white raiment? I long to get to them. I am going," said he, and that moment he died, and fell asleep in the arms of Jesus without a sigh, groan or struggle. On this occasion God gave me resignation; though as a father, I felt the loss of my son, yet I rejoiced that God had taken him to reign with Jesus in a better world. I exhorted those who were present, not to cry, for God had answered my prayer, in giving him a happy end, that his soul might be conducted by angels to paradise. I believe when he pointed with his finger and asked, who they were standing in white, that he then saw the angels ready to accompany him to heaven.

On a Saturday night, I dreamed that a man came to meeting, and staid in class, and spake as I never had heard any one before. Next day, James Sterling came to meeting, staid in class, and spake much as I had heard and seen in my dream. After meeting, I said to my wife, That was the very man I had seen in my dream, and the Lord would add him to his church: soon after, he was thoroughly awakened and converted to God. He yet stands fast amongst us, an useful and distinguished member, well known by many of our preachers and members. Various and many are the particular instances of God's great goodness and power; but to mention them all, would swell this work too large.

The work became pretty general; we used to hold prayer meetings two or three times a week,

in the evening, and often they have continued until twelve or one o'clock in the morning; sometimes we would begin preaching at eleven o'clock, and meeting not break up till night; many long summer days we thus spent. Sometimes we used to assemble in the woods, and under the trees; there not being room in the house for the people that attended. Often, some of them would be struck to the ground in bitter lamentations. The Lord wrought great wonders among us. It was truly a fulfilment of that scripture which says, *I work a work in your days, a work which you shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.* Acts 13. 41. Some very pious men thought strange of it, and some preachers when they visited us could hardly bear it. They thought we carried matters too far. One of them, who was a great man of God, when he came one evening, we had one of those extraordinary times. At first, he opposed it very pointedly; but afterwards, dear man, he was greatly troubled about it, and expressed great sorrow that he had opposed it. I give it as my opinion, that we ought always to be very careful and cautious, how we oppose those powerful meetings, lest, thereby, we grieve the Spirit of God, and injure souls, and thus *be found fighting against God.*

The alarm spread far and near: The friends sent for me to come to New-Mills, about sixty miles distant; I got ready, and went a day's journey to a small village, and preached at night. In the morning my horse was gone; we hunted for him, but all in vain. I wrote some advertisements and returned home. They sent for me again, accordingly I went, and the first time I preached, God worked powerfully; we had a weeping time, and one fell to the floor, (this alarmed the people, for they had never seen the like before:) When

meeting was over we took him to a friend's house, and prayer was made for him till the Lord set his soul at liberty, and he rejoiced in the love of God. Word being sent to his sister, that he had found the Lord, she said, "If my brother has found the Lord, I will never rest until I find him." She locked herself up in a room, and there prayed all night. In the morning the Lord broke in on her soul, with such rapture of joy, that she alarmed the town, and many came to see what was the matter. She told them that she had found the Lord.

Next day I preached, and the Lord poured out his Spirit among us, so that there was weeping in abundance, and one fell to the floor: many prayers being made for him, he found peace before he arose. He is a living witness to this day. I saw him not long since, and we had a precious time together.

Next day, I travelled some miles, and preached in a presbyterian meeting-house. I had a large congregation, and spoke from these words, *Ye must be born again.* God attended the word with power, some wept, some groaned, and others cried aloud. I believe there were about twenty Indians present, and when I came out of the pulpit, they got all round me, asking, what they should do to be saved, and tears ran in abundance: Many of the white people also wept. This was a day of God's power; from the accounts afterwards given me, twelve were converted and many awakened. One, who was a deacon in the church, found the Lord and joined our society; I have spent many precious moments with him since that day. Here I told my experience, and it proved a blessing to many souls. One young man who went by the name of *swearing Jack*, on account of his profaneness in conversation, said, "Such a man has been as bad as my-

self, and if he found peace to his soul, why not I?" From that very hour he began to amend his life, and soon found the Lord precious to his soul, and joined class. At quarterly meeting, I heard him speak his experience, and the goodness of God to his soul, and the first words he spoke, were, "Here stands swearing Jack! but God has pardoned all my sins;" which made a deep impression on the minds of the people, and we had a precious melting time.

Next day, I preached at a place called Turnip Hill, and we had a precious season. On my way to my next appointment, I came to a small village, and stopped at a house, and asked the man if they had any preaching there: He said, No. I said, I am a preacher, and if you will give notice, I will preach to the people; but he replied, They do not want preaching here, and appeared angry. I then told my experience to the man, his wife, and two young women; and the dreadful state that man was in by nature; and then pointed out a Saviour. One of the young women began to weep; I was very happy, and asked the man if I might pray; he gave me leave, and I said, Let us pray. I had no sooner begun than they wept aloud; after prayer he asked me if I would take dinner. and have my horse fed; I thanked him and told him that I had no occasion of any; but if he would feed my horse, I would thank him: He did so, and I left them all in tears. I saw one of the young women some time afterwards, and she told me that she was awakened at that time, and had since found the Lord precious to her soul, and joined class. This shows us that we ought to *Sow our seed in the morning, and in the evening withhold not our hand, for we know not which will prosper, this or that or both alike.* I went on to my appointment; here the devil was very

angry: I gave out to preach on my return, and they threatened, if I came again, to tar and feather me.

I went to Trenton, and our meeting-house being turned into a stable, by the army, they gave me leave to preach in the presbyterian meeting-house. There was a large congregation of dead professors. Next morning on my way to to the next appointment. I stopped at an uncle's that I had not seen for seventeen years. As soon as I saw the house, I felt that the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me there; and as I set my foot on the steps of the door, the Spirit of God came on me. After asking them how they all did, I told them my experience. My uncle and aunt wept sore, and I cried out, The Lord is here! a friend being present, said He is come, for I feel his Spirit upon me: which caused my aunt to wonder what this meant. The friend asked me if I would go: I said, if uncle Joseph will go with me, I will stay till evening. He said he would, so I staid till evening, and they went with me; I preached and we had a melting time.

Next day, I went to brother S. F's, and preached in the evening, to a crowded congregation. and God poured out his Spirit in such a manner that one fell to the floor. A captain and some soldiers came to take me up, but the Spirit of God took him up in such a manner, that he returned home crying to God for mercy. For six weeks his distress was so great, that they had to watch him for fear he would make away with himself; but the Lord sent the Comforter to his soul, and filled him with joy unspeakable. I saw him some time after, happy in God. We spent a precious time together, and parted in love. This meeting was a time of God's power, *many were* awakened to a sense of their danger,

and the people of God were happy, and for my part I was very happy.

I went to my next appointment, and preached with power; we had a melting time. One young woman being powerfully awakened, cried out, "I see Moses and Elias!" repeating it many times over. I said, see Jesus! she replied, He is coming! and clasping her arms to her body, cried several times, I have got him! I have got him! and sprang up, shouting praises to God for her soul's deliverance. I said, if you have got him, be sure to keep him close to your heart. I will, said she. There was also present, a quaker woman, the wife of a quaker preacher's son, who resided in Pennsylvania; she had dreamed the night before that she saw two doves, the one milk white, and the other speckled, and that she must go to the place, and they would lead her to a spring clear as crystal, and there she should drink her fill. Next morning, on the strength of her dream, she took her horse and chaise, and crossed the Delaware river, and came to the house, just as I was going to preach in the evening. The Lord sent the word to her heart, with such power, that she cried out "I shall be dead and damned before morning!" Many prayers were sent up to God, on her behalf. This meeting continued till eleven o'clock: We then retired to bed, and in the dead of the night, she, and the woman of the house, came into the room where we lay, wringing her hands, crying, I shall be dead and damned before morning! desiring that we would get up and pray for her: we arose, and she related her dream. The woman of the house replied, these are the two doves. It struck me like a clap of thunder, I am the speckled one. This caused me to search my heart. I exhorted *her to pray for herself*; she did so, again and

again, and we did the same for her; I then exhorted her to believe on the Lord Jesus; but she still received no answer of peace to her soul. We retired to bed again; but she walked the floor the remainder of the night. I think I never saw a poor soul in deeper distress. In the morning, after prayer, I took my farewell of the family: to her, I said, I never expect to see thee any more, until I see thee in a world of spirits; but she replied, thou wilt see me again, and asked me when I would be at home. I told her, and exhorted her to be engaged with God, and he would bless her soul. The woman of the house told me, that she intended to come to my house, as soon as I got home. But in two or three days she found God precious to her soul. I saw her again, about sixteen years after, and we had a precious time, in conversing together on the things of God, she could then talk Canaan's language.

Sabbath day, I preached in the morning, at the preaching house, to a number of people; after meeting, my nephew asked me to dine with him, with about a dozen more. When we sat down, I asked God for a blessing, and he poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that the tears flowed in abundance. I exhorted then all to fly to Jesus. My soul was so happy that I could not eat. They then said to me. Why do you not eat. I answered, God has given me meat to eat that you know not of. Upon this, we had a shower of tears, and dinner was laid by. I said let us pray, and we all kneeled down at the table and I prayed: one cried out for mercy. When I arose I gave them an exhortation, and then went on to my other appointment, and preached in a presbyterian meeting house to a hard-hearted people.

Monday, I went to see some relations that I

had not seen for many years. When I came to the ferry and had paid my passage, I met my uncle and aunt, whom I shook hands with, and she said Benjamin, I have had no rest since I saw your face, but am like Noah's dove out of the ark. We all went together to another of my aunt's; whom I informed, that if she would give notice to her neighbours, I would preach to them. Accordingly she sent her boys round the neighbourhood, and we had a large congregation; after preaching, several of my relations tarried, to whom I related the works of God which I had seen in many places, and also my conviction and conversion, and asked them if they had ever found such a change in their hearts. They said No. We had a weeping time all the evening; my aunt that was awakened often withdrew from us; and they said to her, What is the matter, are you sick? I desired them to let her alone; about twelve o'clock we went to bed, but sleep departed from me, and I prayed for her all night; and in the morning when I arose, my uncle and aunt were not up, but when they came out of their room I saw an alteration in her face, and wanted to get at her heart, and therefore said, The darkest time in the night was just before day; they replied, Yes. Just so, said I, it is with the soul; the devil seems ready to take it away just before its conversion. This, said she, was the case with me; I prayed in an agony all night, expecting to be in hell before morning and sweated to that degree that I believe I had not a dry thread on me. I besought the Lord that if he would not hear me, that he would hear your prayers for me. I saw your prayers before the Father and Son in my behalf, and in a moment I felt my burden removed, and such joy in my heart, that I was as one illuminated with the love of God in my soul; I clasped my husband

in my arms for joy, and told him what great things God had done for my soul; and I now feel the same power. They all wept, and I said, This is the religion of Jesus. I took my leave of them and went to see an aunt that was a quaker: after some conversation, I told her my experience and asked if I should go to prayer; she answered, Thee may; I did so, and we had a melting time; even the little children wept. I left them all in tears, and went with my uncle and aunt to the ferry; and told them to go, on Thursday, and join class, and so we parted. I went to Trenton and told brother Cotts what the Lord had done, and advised him to go and meet the class; he did so, my uncle and aunt were there. After class, she desired the Lord to shew her what to do; and as they were riding home, the night being very dark, a glorious light shone all round the waggon, so that she said, she could see to pick up a pin. She then asked them, if they saw the light; they said they did see it. Now, said she, I will join the class; and so she did, and became a worthy member, and remains so to this day.

I went to my next appointment, where they had threatened to tar and feather me. Some advised me to go some other way; but when I arrived at the place, I found a large congregation assembled, to whom I preached, and God attended the word with power; many shed tears in abundance. One young woman stood by the fire and leaned her head against the mantle-piece, and wept to that degree that the tears dropped on the hearth until they made a small puddle. When I came to my application, I told them that I came to seek a bride for my master, and added, if you will deal kindly with him, tell me. Upon which the young woman pressed through the crowd, to me, and said, I will go with all my

heart. I applied all the promises that I was able, and told her that he would receive her. As I was about to depart, two young men came to me; one took hold of my leg, and the other held my horse by the neck, and said, "Will you go?" I set on my horse for some time exhorting them to persevere, and the Lord would bless them: many more stood weeping; so we parted, and I went to the New-Mills. Here the people came out by hundreds, to whom I preached my farewell sermon. I returned home, and by Thursday night a letter was sent, informing me sixteen were justified and two sanctified. The reading of this letter filled my soul with love, and I was determined to preach sanctification more than ever.

I received a letter from a presbyterian in Deerfield that his house and heart were opened to receive me, that they had sinners in Deerfield, adding "When you read these lines look upon it as a call from God." I accordingly wrote to him to make an appointment for me on the Sunday following. I attended, and found a large congregation, to whom I preached, and some few wept. I attended again that day two weeks and we had a melting time. I then made an appointment for the travelling preacher. This, and several other places in the neighbourhood, were taken into the circuit. The Lord began to work in a powerful manner, and we soon had two classes; then the devil roared horribly; but God worked powerfully: many of the presbyterians joined soicety, some of whom were had up before the presbyterian church, but all to no purpose; they stood fast, and the Lord blessed the word, and sent it with power to many hearts. Many fell under the mighty power of God, like dead men, being alarmed of their danger. We appointed a watch-night;

this brought so many to see what it meant, that the house could not contain the people. One of our preachers, preached, and then an exhortation was given: the Lord poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that the slain lay all over the house; many others were prevented from falling, by the crowd which stood so close that they supported one another. We continued till about twelve o'clock. and some stayed all night, and in the morning others came; several found peace, and many cried to God for mercy: it was a powerful time to many souls. Here my antagonist, the baptist preacher, who afterward turned universalist, and then deist, came again, and preached the necessity of water baptism. He stole away nine of our sheep, and run then into a mill-pond. This made a division among the people; however the work of the Lord went on, and those that joined him, in less than two years, were all fallen from grace, except two; but said he, "Once in grace, always in grace, and God could as soon fall as one of you." However he soon shewed his cloven foot, by turning his back on the church, and cause of God; and preached up the doctrine the devil did to Eve. *Thou shalt not surely die;* that there was *no hell*, or place of future punishment. His conduct corresponded with his doctrine, and they were left without a teacher.

The next meeting we had here, one was sanctified and two justified; at another, we had the shout of a king in the camp of Israel.

I went to quarterly meeting at Morris-river, and we had a powerful time; the slain lay all through the house, and round it, and in the woods, crying to God for mercy; and others praising God for the deliverance of their souls. At this time there came up the river a look-out

boat; the crew landed and came to the meeting; one of them stood by a woman that lay on the ground crying to God for mercy, and said to her, "Why do you not cry louder:" she immediately began to pray for him, and the power of the Lord struck him to the ground, and he lay and cried for mercy louder than the woman. This meeting continued from 11 o'clock, till night. How many were converted or sanctified is to me unknown. Next day I preached to brother Goff's and had a precious time.

I went to my next appointment, and preached from these words: *Who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?* One woman said, that God had converted her soul. The Lord attended the word with power, many were melted into tears; one drunken man made some noise, but a magistrate ordered him to behave himself, and we had a peaceable waiting before the Lord.

At my next appointment, the Lord made bare his arm of almighty power, in such a manner that many fell to the floor; their cries were very great, the sinners sprang to the doors and windows and fell one over another in getting out; five jumped out at a window; and one woman went close by me and cried out, "you are a devil!" A young man cried out, "Command the peace!" But the magistrate answered "It is the power of God." Another, with tears in his eyes, entreated the people to hold their peace; to which an old woman replied, they cannot hold their peace, unless you cut out their tongues. Glory to God, this day will never be forgotten, either in time or eternity! I was as happy as I could contain.

Brother Creasy told me that we should have nobody out next day; but I replied that we

should have the more ; and so it was, for we had a crowded congregation, and some cried out under the word. Here I was warmly attacked by a baptist ; but glory to God, the scriptures were opened to my mind, and he could not withstand the power of truth.

Next day I preached at Mr. Woolsey's and had a melting time, and many were much wrought upon. I told the people that they had often heard preaching from the word of the Lord ; but to-morrow, tell your neighbours, I will preach from the words of the devil. That night sleep departed from me, and my mind was like a troubled sea. What can you raise from the words of the devil? was constantly uppermost in my mind. At length I concluded, I would take another text. But on a second reflection I found this would not answer, as I should be called a liar, and cause the truth to be evil spoken of. Thus I spent the night in a very restless manner. In the morning, on my way to the place appointed, I found the road crowded with people ; when I arrived at the place, I retired into the woods and besought the Lord to discover some way to me, that I might deliver his word, if consistent to his will, from the text I proposed. I then returned in heaviness to the house, where I found a great crowd, both within and without. I took my stand, gave out my hymn, sung and prayed ; and according to my promise, gave out my text—*Again the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.* Matthew iv. 3. 9. Such a light broke in on my soul, on giving out the text, that I was enabled to preach with great liberty :

many were cut to the heart, and went all through the house.

Next day I went to my appointment at N. C's. soon after I began, a house caught fire about thirty yards distance, and was burnt, which broke up our meeting.

I went to Mr. Smith's, on Tuckehoe river, and preached; and the Lord attended the word with power. One fell to the floor: I then asked the people what they thought of it, and if they did not think it was of the devil. If it is, said I, when she comes to, she will curse and swear, but if it is of God, she will praise him: therefore *stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.* The people stood amazed, while she lay struggling on the floor for life. When she came to, she praised the Lord with a loud voice, and every power of her soul declaring, that God had sanctified her soul. I then met the society, and I impressed sanctification on them. God struck a woman to the floor, who had been fifteen years a professor of justification, and after some time she arose and declared that God had sanctified her soul. I exhorted all round her to claim the promise, and while she was speaking, God struck six or seven to the floor. I then opened the doors and windows, and desired the wicked to come and see the mighty power of God for themselves; and added, If you will not believe this, you would not believe, if God Almighty were to speak to you as he did to Moses, in a flame of fire; and before the meeting was over, six or seven professed sanctification of soul, among whom was the wife of J. Brick, esquire, who had been justified only eight days before.

Next morning I went to esquire Champion's, and preached with great liberty. The meeting began at eleven o'clock in the morning, and last-

ed until about midnight; before it was over, seven found peace with God, and joined society. Here I was as happy in my own soul, as I could wish, either to live or die.

Next day I preached at brother Hews's, to a precious loving people; and as soon as I had kneeled down, before I had uttered one sentence, they all cried out, Amen. After preaching, in class, I endeavoured to teach them the meaning and nature of the term Amen.

At my next appointment I preached with great liberty from these words, *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*. 1 John i. 8, 9. and many wept much. A baptist being present, who had been a great enemy to religion; when I had done, I asked him what he thought of what he had heard; and whether it was not the truth, as it was in Jesus; he replied it was, and exhorted the people to believe it.

Next day I went to my appointment, at Wiretown; but a woman being dead close at hand, I was requested to preach her funeral sermon. While I was speaking, I observed to my hearers, that the darkest time in the night was just before the dawning of the day; and that this was the case with a soul groaning for redemption in Christ; for just as they saw themselves on the very brink of eternal damnation, destitute of every power to extricate themselves, the sun of righteousness, the Lord of life and glory, broke in on their souls and set them at perfect liberty. Up rose a baptist woman and said, that she had come twenty miles through the snow to hear me; and then related her experience,

to the following purport: — I was standing on the hearth with my husband and two children, and thought the hearth opened before me, and I saw hell from beneath opened, and devils ready to receive me: I then started and ran into the room and threw myself on the floor, and cried mightily unto God, to have mercy on my soul; meanwhile my husband went after the cattle, and I continued in prayer until the house was filled with the glory of God, brighter than the sun at noonday. I then arose, and sat on the foot of the bed, wishing for my husband to return; after a while he came: I ran out to meet him, clasped him round the neck, and told him what God had done for my soul. The power of the Lord came upon me again, as it had done in the house, and I cried out in such a manner, that it frightened my husband and the cattle, so that the cattle ran off again, and my husband went away also. I went to the house happy in God. And our people (meaning the baptists) say it is only a delusion of the devil, for that God did not come to people in such a manner, now a-days." Then asked me what I thought of it: "For I feel," said she, "that same power on me now." I told her it was the work of God, a change of heart,; and that if ever the Lord had converted my soul, he had converted her's. She immediately laid hold of faith, and was instantly delivered from that anxiety and despair, that had attended her mind. She rode next day, with one of our friends, to a place called Goodluck, where I preached from these words, *awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.* Eph. v. 14. with great liberty, and the power of God attended the word

Next day I rode with one of our friends, about twelve miles, through a north-east storm of hail, to esquire Akin's, on Tom's river. When we arrived there, we were both wet and cold: After drying myself a little, I gave an exhortation to the few present, and tarried all night.

In the morning I went to my appointment, had an attentive congregation, and the Lord attended the word with power. A Frenchman fell to the floor, and never arose until the Lord converted his soul. Here we had a happy time.

Next day I went to my appointment, at the house of a baptist man: here a dispute arose with the man concerning a piece published by one of our preachers on baptism, which gave him great umbrage: and he objected to my preaching in his house. I remained perfectly composed and easy, whether I preached or not. Brother Sterling, who had met me here, reasoned the case with him, until he gave his consent. I then went to my stand, gave out my hymn, sang and prayed, took my text, and began to preach, and the Lord's mighty power attended the word. The people wept all through the house, and the man of the house trembled like Belshazzar: After I had done, I asked if there was any person there that would open their house for preaching. A man present answered, that we might preach at his house, which was just across the way; accordingly I appointed meeting that day fortnight. The man of the house that had objected to my preaching in his house, afterward desired that I would preach in it again in the evening: I told him, that as the people were chiefly gone, it would answer but little purpose, to make another appointment; but he said, that he would send and give information to his neighbours; he did so, and I

preached to them, and hope that all the seed will not fall to the ground.

Next morning, I went to my appointment at Mr. W's: I retired in secret; the power of the Lord came upon me in such a manner, that I lost the power of my body, and cried out in such a manner that I alarmed the people; who had never seen the like before. When I recovered a little, I went and preached to them; and we had a precious time. Here I met with an old Israelite, we spent some precious time together. The night before I came, he was in soul distress, and experienced a deliverance. He and four of his family were happy in God.

I set out for quarterly meeting, and on my way I stopped to get my horse shod; and went to a house where I found an old woman spinning, and asked her for a drink of water; she gave it me: I said to her, You have given me drink to refresh my body, I will strive to give you the waters of life, by persuading you to make application to Jesus. After telling her the terrors of the law, and the promises of the gospel, I asked leave to pray; which she granted. Three years after, as I was on my way to a quarterly meeting, I met with about twenty persons who were on their way to the same meeting. As soon as they saw me, a woman from among them ran to me, and said to me, "How do you do, my father?" I asked her how she came to know me? she answered, "I will soon convince you; I have cause to know you; do you not remember, asking me for a drink of water, and that you set before me the plan of salvation, and went to prayer with me. You had not been gone half an hour, before I expected to be in hell every moment; I cried to God mightily without any intermission, until he set *my soul at liberty*: therefore I call you my spiritual father." At quarterly meeting, we open-

ed our love-feast with prayer, and the Lord made bare his arm; some fell to the floor, and others ran away. Such a time they never had before. I. W. exhorted the mourners very powerfully, being himself converted the night before. The old lady, his mother, was very happy. When I was about to go, she put two dollars into my hand; this was the first that I had ever received as a preacher; but he that was mindful of the young ravens, was mindful of me. I had always travelled at my own charge before. When I received this, I had but fifteen pence in my pocket, and was above two hundred miles from home.

I went to an appointment in a baptist settlement and preached with great liberty; two fell, and never ceased crying to God for mercy, until he set their souls at liberty; many were much afflicted, and some deeply awakened. There was an old baptist, Mr. Bray, that asked me home with him, and as I went, he desired to stop at a house to go to prayer; here we found several persons deeply awakened who had been at meeting; after prayer, I gave them an exhortation, and then went on with my friend, where to my great surprise, I found about forty persons assembled. The old man being fond of poetry, he began with hymns and psalms, &c. I sat silent while he went on for some time; when he had done, I began to relate the wonderful work of God, that I had seen through the land; souls converted, souls sanctified, drunkards become sober men, &c. One of the young men present, said, "It beats all the preaching that ever I heard of since I was born; and if there is such a God as you speak of, I am determined to find him before morning." I then exhorted him with all my power, applying the promises, and *told him if he* sought, he should surely find. He

went home and retired to his barn, and there continued all night in prayer; some times on his knees and sometimes on his face. Next morning about an hour by sun, the sun of righteousness broke in and spake peace to his soul. Now, says he, "Are these the people that we used to call deceivers, and false teachers? O that God would convert another soul that there might be two witnesses for Jesus to day; that out of the mouth of two witnesses every word might be established!" As he was on his way to meeting he met with nine or ten others; just as they turned the corner of the house to go in, a young man fell to the ground, and never ceased crying to God until he spake peace to his soul. They then came into the house, and the first one began to exhort the people, bathed in tears, telling them that they had called these people antichristians, but that he knew that they were the servants of the living God; exhorting them to believe. After him arose the other, who had just found peace at the door, and began to tell what God had done for his soul, exhorting them likewise to believe, while tears flowed from many eyes. I then arose, gave out a hymn, sang and prayed; but having taken such cold the over night, that instead of preaching I could only whisper to them.

Next morning I went to my appointment, but my cold had so increased that I was unable to preach, and only whispered them an exhortation. Next day I went to brother Fidler's, and preached in the evening; we had a precious time with the little society. A few days after, I rode to Trenton. I began to preach at candle light, to a large congregation, which caused the devil to roar; while I was on my second head, his children, in the street, cried Fire! Fire! This

alarmed the people, and they ran off instantly through the town, in search of the fire, but found none. When the tumult was over, I was requested to return; and to preach again; but I sent the people word that I should preach no more that night.

Next morning I set out for quarterly meeting at New Mills. After our meeting had been opened and several exhortations given, brother C. Cotts went to prayer, and several fell to the floor, and many were affected, and we had a powerful time. After meeting, brother J. S. and several others, went with me to I. B's, where we tarried all night. Here we found a woman in distress of soul; after prayer, we retired to bed. In the morning brother S. went to prayer, and after him myself; the distressed woman lay as in the agonies of death near one hour: when she arose, she went into her room to prayer, and soon after returned and professed faith in Christ. She and her husband went with us to brother H's, where about forty persons had assembled to wait for us in order to have prayer before we parted. As soon as I entered the house, a woman entreated me to pray for her, and added, "I am going to hell, I have no God!" I exhorted her and all present, setting before them the curses of God's law against sin; and likewise I applied the promises of the gospel to the penitent; then a young woman came to me and said, "Father Abbott, pray to God, to give me a clean heart." I replied, God shall give you one this moment; how I came to use the word *shall* I know not; but she dropped at that instant into my arms as one dead. I then claimed the promises and cried to God, exhorting them all to look to God for clean hearts, and *he would* do great things for them; at which, *about twenty* more fell to the floor. When the

young woman came to, she declared that God had sanctified her soul. (I saw her many years after; and her life and conversation adorned the gospel.) Prayer was kept up, without intermission, for the space of three hours. Eight souls professed sanctification, and three Indian women justification in Christ Jesus. *Of a truth, God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness, shall be accepted of him.* Of this we had a manifest instance, while we beheld the mighty power of God, and the slain lying through the house like dead men.

My next appointment, was that evening at early candle light, about forty miles distance, and it was eleven o'clock before we were ready to start. We stopped at Mores-town and refreshed ourselves, then pushed on to J. C's on Mantua Creek: being rather late, they had begun to sing before we arrived. I preached unto the people, and we had a melting time. After meeting, in family worship, two or three went to prayer, the mighty power of God struck a young woman to the floor, her screams and screeches were such that my pen is unable to describe. She rolled from place to place, on the floor, like one of the damned in torment. Her mother ran to take her away; when I saw it, I desired her father, not to suffer her to be removed: her mother then retired to her room and left us. Prayer was kept up all night, without intermission. She continued her cries until sun about one hour high, by which time the house was filled with the neighbours, and the Lord spake peace to her soul. A young man came in, brother F. S. took him by the hand and said, Brother C. had a daughter converted this morning, and she wants to speak with *you; he led him* to her, she took him by the

hand, and began to exhort him with tears: he began to tremble and scream in an awful manner, and in about two or three days he found peace. There came in also an elderly man, and brother F. S. took him in like manner to her, and she began to warn and exhort him, while he trembled, and tears flowed in abundance. She then said, God had called her to go from house to house and warn her neighbours to flee from the wrath to come. Several of our friends tarried and went with her for three days; but we returned home, from which I had been absent about six weeks.

Soon after, I removed to lower Penns-neck with my family, where I found a set of as hardened sinners as were out of hell. I preached again and again, and all to no purpose. Brother Pedicord and brother Metcalf came to my house, and I told them that I was almost discouraged. When they heard it, they were so distressed that they could not eat breakfast, but retired to their room, where they remained until about one or two o'clock. When they came down stairs, brother P. said, "Father Abbott, do not be discouraged: these people will yet hunger and thirst after the word of God," and appeared cheerful. In the evening he preached to the neighbours; and next day they went on their circuits.

I went to B. Wetherby's, at Quinten's bridge, near Salem, where I frequently preached; here we soon raised a class, among whom were brother H. Ffirth, John M'Claskey, and others, who became useful and worthy members of the church.

One day as I was preaching, I. Holladay, of lower Penns-neck, stopped to hear, and the word *reached* his heart; after sermon, he asked me, *if I would* come and preach at his house; I asked *him if I* should give it out for the circuit preach-

er: he said, Yes. I did so, and after bidding the family farewell, an officer of the army being present, I took him by the hand, and said, "God out of Christ is a consuming fire—Farewell"—and so we parted. God pursued him from the very door, and gave him no rest: before twelve o'clock that night, he was out of bed on the floor at prayer. In about two months his soul was set at liberty, and he is a member of our church to the present period.

The day appointed at Mr. Holladay's the travelling preacher came, and a great concourse attended, to whom he preached; some seemed awakened, some disputed, and some were in great consternation. When he concluded, he asked if he should give out preaching there again. Mr. H. replied he might. At the time appointed, abundance of people attended, to whom brother Ivy preached with great power, being full of faith and the Holy Ghost. Many of the people wept, and it was a good season: by this time, there were many doors opened. One cried, preach at my house; and another, preach at my house, &c.

The next appointment was made at J. D.'s, for brother Dudley: he came and preached with power. After meeting, I told them, that that day week, I would declare to them, *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages, and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints, to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery, among the gentiles; which is Christ in you the hope of glory, whom we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus—Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.* Col. i. 26—29. The people *concluded* that I was going to prophesy, and

would tell how the war would terminate; this brought abundance together. I preached, and God attended the word with power. I had not spoken long before a professing quaker said, it was a mystery to him but before I concluded, himself, his wife, son, and daughter, were all struck under conviction, and never rested until they all found rest to their souls, and joined society. About six months after, the son died in a triumph of faith: the father was taken ill at the funeral, and never went out of his house again, until carried to his grave. He departed this life, praising God in a transport of joy. By this time there was a general alarm spread thro' the neighbourhood. We had prayer meetings two or three times a week, and at almost every meeting, some were either convinced or converted. One old woman, to whose soul the Lord had spoken peace, clapped her hands, and began to praise the creature, instead of the creator—I stepped to her, and said, "I have done nothing for you, if there be any good, it is the Lord that has done it, and therefore praise God." "O, said she, but you are a dear good creature for all!" I turned away, and went among the people. At this meeting, we had the shout and the power of Israel's God in the camp; prayer was kept up until near midnight.

Next morning a man came to my house, to know what he must do to be saved; I applied the promises of the gospel, and then went to prayer; and after me, my wife, and then my daughter Martha; and while supplicating the throne of grace on his behalf, the Lord, in his infinite goodness, spake peace to his soul; and we were all made partakers of the blessing. He joined society, lived several years, and died clapping his hands and shouting, "Glory to *God! I am* going home!" That moment his

hands ceased clapping, he died; and never was perceived to breath again.

We had now about twenty-two or three in society; but persecution soon arose, and the devil stirred up one J. N. a professor of religion among the presbyterians, who at first appeared very friendly, and was active in bringing us into the neighbourhood; but soon after, he became an instrument in the hand of the devil to oppose and lay waste the truth, and did much hurt to the cause of God; and all under the cloke of religion. He went among our young converts, and told them, that God had revealed it to him, that the spirit which they professed to receive at their conversions, was of the devil, and not the Spirit of Christ; but glory to God, it was not in the power of men or devils to extinguish the divine flame: although they cast a cloud on many minds, and turned some out of the way.

The height of my harvest being on our meeting-day, when meeting time came, I told my reapers, that they must all go to meeting, and that I would pay them their wages as though they were at work. We all went, and God wrought powerfully; several fell to the floor, and two found peace; it was a great day to many. After meeting, we returned to our work again.

I continued, for about two months, to preach under the trees, as the house would not contain the people. We seldom had a meeting, during that period, but what some were either convinced, converted, or sanctified,

I now thought it might be expedient to make an attempt towards building a meeting house. A subscription was drawn for that purpose: but not being able to obtain a suitable piece of ground to build on, as those who had such, refused to

sell, it fell through for nearly four years, and we continued our meetings as before.

One day, while I was speaking, the power of the Lord laid hold on a quaker woman, and as she was about to escape, she fell on her hands and knees. Some of her friends helped her up, got her into a waggon, and carried her off. I was afterwards informed that it took them two weeks to kill her convictions. The work of the Lord went on among the people, and I continued to impress the necessity of sanctification upon believers. We had at that time, twelve children who were converted to God. One of our sisters got deeply convinced, that she must be holy in heart; and one night the Spirit of God came upon her, so that she arose out of her bed, went on her knees, and prayed to God to give her a clean heart, and to sanctify her nature; her mother ran and caught her about the neck, and told her to go to bed, for there was no occasion for so much ado about religion. She went to bed, but without the blessing: though her distress was so great, that she could not rest. Soon she was up on the floor again, crying earnestly to God; her mother hauled her on the bed again; she then rose again and entreated her mother to let her alone, and she then forbore. While she continued wrestling with God for the blessing, the power of the Lord came upon her, so that she lost the use of her bodily powers for some time. When she came to again, she knew that God had sanctified her soul.

It is about fifteen years since she received this inestimable blessing: and, from that time to this, her life and conduct has adorned the gospel.

Next evening, at class-meeting, she came and rehearsed the matter, and told us that God had sanctified her soul: this gave a fresh spring to ma-

ny. A few days after, one of our sisters was engaged with God for a clean heart; she went five times on her knees to prayer, and then concluded that she was going to die. O, said she, that daddy Abbott was here to see me die! Then she went to prayer again; but still grew worse. She went to the door to call some near neighbours; but could not utter one word: she then shut the door, and went to prayer the seventh time; and the power of the Lord came wonderfully upon her, and she fell to the floor as one dead. When she came to, she knew that God had sanctified her soul; she then arose, and at that instant I came in at the door, and she cried out, "Daddy Abbott, God has given me a clean heart!" At that moment, God sealed it so to my heart, that I cried out, and could not forbear; we rejoiced together in a glorious hope of immortality. This alarmed several, and set them all on fire for sanctification.

The next meeting-day, in time of preaching, we had a powerful time, and a number fell to the floor; one man attempted to run off, but God laid him down at the door. A woman made the same attempt, but the Spirit of the eternal God arrested her, and she fell back into the house just as she was going out of the door. After preaching, we had a blessed time in class: while claiming the promises, several were soon down, both on the right and left; some found peace, and others professed sanctification. One very wicked woman was arrested by the mighty power of God, and scrabbled out at the door, and laid hold of a cheese-press to prevent herself from falling. After a while, she set off for home, and when about half way, she began to conclude that it was only a fright, occasioned by seeing others so agitated; and as she was passing thro' a skirt of wood, she was again arrested by the

Spirit of God, which convinced her of omnipotent power; and trembling, she went home and threw herself on the bed, and there lost the usual power of her body and limbs, and shook to that degree, that the bed on which she lay, trembled under her. The alarm ran through the neighbourhood with as great surprise as if one had been murdered.

In the evening I went to see her, where I found about forty of the neighbours assembled to see what was the matter. She then lay shaking as heretofore in a very strange manner. I then exhorted the people, and told them that this was the wonderful work of God, and that if they would not believe it, they would not believe if God Almighty was to stand by them as he stood by Moses in a flame of fire. The people looked as if they were under sentence of death, while an awful terror was stamped on every face. She then broke out in exhortation, exhorting them all not to live as she had done. You see, said she, what sin has brought me to; she spake near one hour, and many wept under her exhortation. Whenever an opportunity offered, I threw in a word for Jesus. She continued in this strange posture two days and nights, and then the Lord gave her strength to get out of bed: but as yet she had not found peace. In the evening of the third day, she came to my house to family duty, and the Lord set her soul at liberty. She returned home, rejoicing in God her Saviour, joined society, and continued a faithful member about six months. Her case afterward was singular. A dispute between her husband and one of our members, being left to men, was decided against him; this gave her such umbrage that she came no more to meeting, *soon* she returned to her old practices again, and *became a two-fold* worse child of hell than at

the beginning, cursing, swearing, and blaspheming in a most horrid manner.

In about eighteen months after, God sent the grim monster death, to arrest her. In her sickness she sent for me. I went, and exhorted her to try to turn to God; but she said she could not see how God could have mercy on her, as she had sinned so grievously against such light and knowledge. There being several back-sliders present, she exhorted them to turn to God before it was eternally too late. I endeavoured to apply all the promises for back-sliders from Genesis to Revelations, but without faith. I then called the people together, and went to prayer, but it seemed as if my mouth was stopped, and my prayers were without access. I arose from prayer and exhorted her to try to pray, but she replied, I have no heart or power to pray: but, said I, keep begging of God to give you a heart to pray; for the spirit of prayer is the gift of God, and you have your senses, and who knows what God may do for you. So I bid her farewell, and went home. They sent for me again; but I told the messenger that my temporal affairs were in such a situation that I could not then go. In the afternoon, her son came for me again; I told him I could not well go. Oh, do go! (said he, and burst into a flood of tears) for she frightens us so, that we are afraid to stay in the house. I told him to go by the house and ask my daughter Rebecca, (intending to go myself in the evening) he did so, and she went. She found a number of the neighbours gathered, expecting the woman was dying. When she went in, the sick woman was pointing with her hand, saying to the by-standers, "Do not you see the devils there ready to sieze my soul and drag it to hell?" Some of them said, There are no devils here, she is out

of her senses; but she replied, I have my senses as well as ever I had in my life. She then cried out, "I am in hell! I am in hell! I am in hell!" but said they, You are not in hell, you are out of your senses. She replied, "I am not out of my senses; but I feel as much of the torturing torments of the damned as a mortal can feel in the body!" Her flesh rotted on her bones, and fell from one of her sides, so that her entrails might be seen. In this awful terrible situation she left this stage of action. Alas! Alas! Woe to back-sliders! Surely if there be one place of greater punishment than another, among the torments of the damned, that will be their portion. That God may alarm their guilty fears, before iniquity prove their eternal ruin and their souls are centered among devils and damned ghosts, is the desire of my soul!

I had often urged on the people the necessity of building a meeting-house, for the space of about four years, in lower Penns-neck, during which period we had frequently held our meetings under the trees, when the weather admitted. One day meeting with a carpenter, I agreed with him to build one. He came at the time appointed. I told him that we had got no timber for the building, and therefore I must go a begging. Accordingly we set out and went to a neighbour, and told him we were going to build a house for God, and asked him what he would give us towards it; he answered, two sticks of timber for sills. We then went to the widow M'C's, a professing quaker, and she gave us two more, and sent her team to haul them to the place. We then went to Mr. Wm. Philpot, and he gave us sufficient for the house, though not even a professor with us; may the Lord reward him accordingly. I then went among our *friends*, and told them that they must come and

help to get the timber; they did so, and we began on Tuesday morning, and by Friday night we had all the timber at the place. Brother Henry Ffirth, a steward of the circuit, and myself, were appointed managers to carry on the building. The Friday week following, we raised our house, and in the afternoon preached on the foundation. In six weeks the carpenter had done his work, and I begged the money and paid him. This proved a great blessing to the neighbourhood, the greater part of which became methodized, and many were moralized and christianized, while the enemies of truth daily lost ground, and bigotry gradually declined.

I had been for some time pressed in spirit to visit Pennsylvania, and in the love and fear of God, I set out, with my life in my hand, it being at a time when the war was raging through our land. I crossed the Delaware at New-Castle, and that night, at early candle-light, preached at R. F's to a pack of ruffians, assembled in order to mob me, and one stood with a bottle of rum in his hand, swearing that he would throw it at my head; but Mr. F. stood in the door and prevented him. If I ever preached the terrors of the law, I did it then—hoping some good seed might be sown in some hearts.

I went next day to J. S's, and preached in the evening to a small, but an attentive congregation: here some souls appeared very happy.—In time of my last prayer, one woman fell to the floor, and cried mightily to God for a clean heart, and after some time, lay as one dead but when she came to, she said, God had given her a clean heart, and cried out, "O that could go to my Jesus! O that I could die!". This was her language for near the space

three hours, without rising from the floor—I then told her she should not die, that God had something for her to do, and that she could not die when she would. She then said, "O daddy Abbott! how can I live?" repeating it over and over again. I went to bed and left her; she continued all night in prayer.

I went to J. H's—here I preached chiefly to baptists (there were two or three sheep here, but they were afraid to hold up their heads:) as soon as I had concluded, I was attacked by several of them. I told them that if God had fore-ordained such a certain number for salvation, and pre-ordained the remainder for damnation, it was in vain to pretend to persuade me to renounce my principles, for let me do what I would, I was certainly as well off as they were, and laid before them the absurdity of such antiscriptural doctrines—and so we parted.

Next day I preached at brother H's, to a large congregation: here God attended the word with power: many poor sinners were cut to the heart, and some cried aloud for mercy. After preaching, a dear old woman came and said, "This is the gospel trump! I heard it sounded by Mr. Whitefield twenty-five years ago; it is the same; I know it." I spent a precious evening with the old lady and her husband, conversing on the things of God. In the morning I went to my appointment, and preached to about ten hard-hearted sinners.

Next day, I set out for my appointment, but being a stranger, I stopped at a house to enquire the way, and the man told me he was just going to that place, for there was to be a methodist preacher there that day; and "Our preacher, said he, is to be there, to trap him in his discourse, and if you will wait a few minutes, until *a neighbour of* mine comes, I will go with you."

In a few minutes the man came, who, it seems was a constable; so we set off, and they soon fell into conversation about the preacher, having no idea of my being the man, as I never wore black, or any kind of garb, that indicated my being a preacher, and so I rode unsuspected. The constable being a very profane man, he swore by all the gods he had, good and bad, that he would lose his right arm from his body if the methodist preacher did not go to jail that day. This was the theme of their discourse. My mind was greatly exercised on the occasion, and what added, as it were, double weight, I was a stranger in a strange place, where I knew no one. When we arrived at the place appointed, I saw about two hundred horses hitched. I also hitched mine, and retired into the woods, where I prayed and covenanted with God on my knees, that if he stood by me in this country, I would be more for him through grace, than ever I had been. I then arose and went to my horse, with a perfect resignation to the will of God, whether to death or to jail. I took my saddle-bags and went to the house, the man took me into a private room and desired I would preach in favour of the war, as I was in a presbyterian settlement. I replied, I should preach as God should direct me. He appeared very uneasy and left me, and just before preaching he came in again, and renewed his request that I would preach up for war. I replied as before, and then followed him out among the people, where he made proclamation as follows, "Gentlemen, this house is my own, and no gentleman shall be interrupted in my house in time of his discourse; but after he has done, you may do as you please." Thank God, said I softly, that I have liberty once more to

warn sinners before I die. I then took my stand, and the house was so crowded that no one could sit down. Some hundreds were round about the door. I stood about two or three feet from the constable who had sworn so bitterly—when he saw that I was the man, that he had so abused on the way, with so many threats and oaths, his countenance fell and he turned pale. I gave out a hymn, but no one offered to sing: I sung four lines, and kneeled down and prayed. When I arose, I preached with great liberty. I felt such power from God rest upon me, that I was above the fear of either men or devils, not regarding whether death or jail should be my lot: Looking forward I saw a decent looking man trembling, and tears flowed in abundance, which I soon discovered was the case with many others: after preaching, I told them I expected they wanted to know by what authority I had come into that country to preach. I then told them my conviction, and conversion, the place of my nativity and place of residence: also my call to the ministry, and that seven years I had laboured in God's vineyard; that I spent my own money and found and wore my own clothes, and that it was the love that I had for their precious souls for whom Christ died, that had induced me to come among them at the risque of my life; and then exhorted them to fly to Jesus the ark of safety, that all things were ready, to seek and they should find, to knock and it should be opened unto them. By this time the people were generally melted into tears. I then concluded, and told them on that day two weeks they might expect preaching again. I mounted my horse and set out with a friendly quaker, for a pilot. We had not rode above fifty yards, when I heard

one hollowing after us. I looked back, and saw about fifty running after us. I then concluded that to jail I must go. We stopped, and when they came up, "I crave your name," said one—I told him, and so we parted. He was a justice of the peace, and was the person that I had taken notice of in time of preaching, and observed him to be in great anxiety of mind. No one offered me any violence; but they committed the next preacher, on that day two weeks, to the common jail. I went home with the kind quaker, where I tarried all night. I found that himself and wife were under serious impressions, and had had methodist preaching at their house. They were very kind, and we spent the evening in conversing on the things of God. Here A. C. one of our young preachers, met me, intending to go round the circuit with me.

We set out for the next preaching place, where we found a small congregation. I had great liberty in preaching, and we had a blessed time. One woman fell to the floor. Brother C. was greatly tried at hearing the cries of the people.

Next day we went on to our next appointment, in a school-house, where we had a considerable congregation. I spake with great liberty: two fell under the power of God, and when they came to, they had found peace. After class-meeting, we went home with one of our friends, and next day, preached at his house. The Lord attended the word with power, several cried aloud for mercy. In class we had a melting time, and two fell to the floor. This tried brother C. again, and he asked me why I did not command them to be silent. I told him that these people were not Jersey people, and I had not learned them to fall down and cry out,

as the people in your neighbourhood say I have learned the Jersey people. Here you may see for yourself, that it is the power of God. Why, said he, brother G. would forbid them. I told him, it mattered not to me what brother G. would do, I knew it was the power of God; and therefore if every cry was as loud as ever he heard a clap of thunder, I would not forbid them.

Next day we went to our appointment, where the congregation was chiefly Germans, and a well-behaved people. Here the Lord wrought wonders, divers fell to the floor and several found peace. We had a lively class, and a precious melting time among the people of God. Many tarried to hear what I had seen through the land, of the wonderful works of God. In family prayer, the power of God came on me in so wonderful a manner, that I lost both the power of my body and use of my speech, and cried out in a strange manner. The people also cried aloud, here I thought I should frighten them, being in a strange country and among a people of a strange language, and was afraid it might prove a disadvantage to them: but glory to God, it had a contrary effect, for they continued all night in prayer.

Next morning, I set out with about twenty others for my appointment, where we found a large congregation. When I came to my application, the power of the Lord came in such a manner, that the people fell all about the house; and their cries might be heard afar off. This alarmed the wicked, who sprang for the doors in such haste, that they fell one over another in heaps. The cry of mourners was so great, I thought to give out a hymn to drown the noise, and desired one of our English friends to raise it, but as soon as he began to sing, the power of *the Lord* struck him, and he pitched under the

table, and there lay like a dead man. I gave it out again, and asked another to raise it: as soon as he attempted, he fell also. I then made the third attempt, and the power of God came upon me in such a manner, that I cried out, and was amazed. I then saw that I was fighting against God, and did not attempt to sing again. Mr. Beam, the owner of the house, and a preacher among the Germans, cried out, "I never saw God in this way before." - I replied, This is a pentecost, daddy. "Yes, be sure," said he, clapping his hands, "a pentecost be sure!"— Prayer was all through the house, up stairs and down. I desired Mr. Beam to go to prayer: he did so, and five or six of us did the same. A watch-night having been appointed for that evening, and seeing no prospect of this meeting being over, although it had begun at eleven o'clock, I told Mr. Beam that we had best quietly withdraw from the meeting-house.— When we had got out of the door, a young man came out, and laid hold on the fence to support Himself from falling, and there hollowed amain, for God to have mercy on him. To be sure, said Mr. Beam, I never saw God in this way before. We exhorted him to look to God, and not to give up the struggle, and God would bless him before he left the place. I took the old gentleman by the arm and we went quietly to the house to get some dinner. About five o'clock a messenger came from the preaching-house, requesting that I would go there immediately, for there was a person dying. We went without delay. I went up stairs, and there lay several about the floor, some crying for mercy, and others praising God. I then went into the preaching-room, and there they lay about the floor in like manner. I then went to

see the person said to be dying; she laid gasping. I kneeled down to pray, but it was instantly given me, that God had converted her soul, and therefore instead of praying for her deliverance, I gave God thanks that he had delivered her, and immediately she arose and praised God, for what he had done for her soul.

A young German came to me, and clasped me in his arms, but could not speak English, that I could understand. I then retired to the house, and consulted with Mr. Beam, who should preach in the evening, for I thought it would be best for one of the German preachers to speak first, there being several of them present. The rumour having run through the neighbourhood, of the power of God during the day, we had a very large congregation in the evening, to whom one of the German preachers preached. It appeared to me he spake with life and power. After him, brother C. gave an exhortation; but being confused, and an enemy to the work, his discourse was neither attended with life nor power. Then Mr. Beam gave an exhortation in the German language; and after him a young man gave a warm exhortation in the same tongue. Then I arose, and hardly knew how to speak, there had been so much said, and it was now growing late. However I spake, and the Lord laid to his helping hand, as he had done in the day time, divers fled and made their escape out of the house, and then it appeared as if there were none left, but what were earnestly engaged in prayer, some praising God, and others crying to him for mercy. I told Mr. Beam that I should not be fit for the duties of the ensuing day if I did not retire. So we went to the house about twelve o'clock and took

some refreshment and went to bed. In the morning I found that the people were still engaged and had been so all night. I went to the house, about sun an hour high, where I found about one dozen still engaged in prayer. I told them we ought to begin to prepare for the other meeting, so they broke up.

We set out with about forty friends to the next appointment. The people being gathered, after singing and prayer, I began to preach, and God laid to his helping hand; many cried aloud for mercy. One young man being powerfully wrought upon, retired up stairs, and there thumped about on the floor, so that Mr. Beam was afraid that he would be injured in body. To be sure, said he, I never saw God in this way before. I told him there was no danger, he was in the hands of a merciful God. In a few minutes after, in attempting to come down stairs, he fell from the top to the bottom, and hallooed aloud, "The devil is in the chamber! The devil is in the chamber!" which greatly alarmed all the people. This brought a great damp over my spirits, for I thought, if I had raised the devil, I might as well go home again. However, after a little space, I bid some of the dear people go up stairs and see if the devil was there; several went up to see what the matter was, and there they found a man rolling, groaning, and crying to God for mercy: they returned and told us how the matter stood. When I dismissed the people, many wept around me, some said they had found peace, some were truly awakened, and others deeply convicted.

Next day I went to my appointment, where met a small congregation, to whom I expounded the word—Met a small class—had a good time with them.

I went to my next appointment—it was in a large store-house, but the most dirty place I ever had been in. I had no stomach to eat, they were so monstrous filthy; and when in bed, I was ready to be devoured with fleas and bugs. Here there seemed but little good done.

My next appointment was in a presbyterian settlement, where I preached to a large congregation of hard-hearted and stiff-necked sinners, with but little or no prospect of any good being done. I left them without making any appointment, and went that evening to the place of my next appointment, where I met with about twenty persons, who had assembled together. I gave them a word of exhortation, and insisted on sanctification and holiness of heart; here was a general weeping, and the word took such an effect on two young men, that they both fell to the floor, and one of them cried out in like manner as I had done when the Lord had sanctified my soul. I said, God is about to sanctify them, especially that one, whose cry represented my own, under the like operation. Here we had a precious and powerful time in family worship. The young men both declared that God had sanctified them, and were as happy as they could live, praising God with loud acclamations of joy.

Next day the people gathered, and we had a tolerable congregation. God attended the word with power, and some cried out. We had a favoured time both in preaching and in class.

I went to my next appointment and preached in the evening. God attended the word with power, and some cried out. In meeting the class, three or four professed sanctification.

Next day, at my appointment, I met with my worthy friend and brother in Christ, James Sterling, of New-Jersey, whom I was glad to

see, having wrote to him some days before and informed him how God was carrying on his work. In two days after he had received the account, he met me here. We had a crowded house, and the Lord laid to his helping hand; divers fell to the floor, and some cried aloud for mercy. After preaching, an old presbyterian gentleman attacked me, and told me that it was all the work of the devil—that God was a God of order—and this was a perfect confusion. Well, said I, if this be the work of the devil, these people (many of whom then lay on the floor as dead men) when they come to, they will curse and swear and rage like devils: but if it be of God, their notes will be changed: soon after, one of them came to, and he began to praise God with a loud voice, and soon another, and so on, until divers of them bore a testimony for Jesus. Hark, hark! said I to my old opponent, Brother, do you hear them, this is not the language of hell, but the language of Canaan. I then appointed prayer meeting at a friend's house in the neighbourhood. After the people had gathered, I saw my old opponent amongst them. I gave out a hymn, and brother S. went to prayer, and after him myself; I had spoken but a few words, before brother S. fell to the floor, and soon after him, every soul in the house, except myself and my old presbyterian opponent and two others. I arose and gave an exhortation, and the two men fell, one as if he had been shot, and then they were every soul down in the house except myself and my old opponent. He began immediately to dispute the point, telling me, it was all delusion, and the work of Satan. I told him, to stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. As they came to they all praised God, and not one soul but what professed either

to have received justification or sanctification; eight of whom professed the latter. I then replied, Hark! is this the language of hell? Here your eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord. The old man left us a little better satisfied than at first.

Next morning brother S. went to prayer, and a woman fell to the floor, and hollowed aloud. Then I went to prayer, and brother S. and several others fell under the mighty power of God: but I was under some exercise of mind, as the house fronted on the public high-way, lest any passing by, might hear the screeches and cries, and conclude that some one was committing murder; but they all arose except the woman, and I desired that they would take her up and lay her on a bed, for we had spent so much time here, that time called us away to our next appointment, which was about seven miles distance —Here we met with my old presbyterian opponent again: on seeing him I was sorry, for I concluded that we should have some disputing again. I fixed my eyes on him, and cried mightily to God, that if one man fell that day, it might be him. As I was preaching, I heard several cry out, Water! water! the man is fainting! I looked round and saw it was my old opponent trembling like Belshazzar: I told them to let him alone, and to look to themselves, for that it was the power of God that had arrested him. They let him go, and down he fell on the floor, struggled a while, and then lay as one dead. When I finished my discourse, and dismissed the people, in order to meet the class, I desired some of our friends to carry him out, as he was in our way: they did so, and laid him on a bed in a back room. After class, I went in to see my old opponent; he had just come to, and was sitting on

the bed: Now, thought I, is this the work of the devil, or not! but said nothing to him, nor he to me.

Next morning, we went to our appointment, where we had a large congregation. Looking round, I saw my old presbyterian friend again. This was nine miles distance from my former appointment—I felt great freedom in speaking: a woman began to shake in a powerful manner, and three or four cried, Water! water! I told them it was the power of God that had fallen on her, so they let her go, and down she fell on the floor. I bid them to look to themselves, and went on with my discourse, some wept, some sighed, and some groaned. When I dismissed the people, not one offered to go. I then desired some one to speak to them; and brother C. arose and said, You stand amazed at the power of God, and well you may, and gave a smart exhortation. By this time, I had gathered a little strength, and gave them an exhortation; they wept all through the house. I then said, for God's sake, if any can speak for God, say on, for I can speak no more. Who should arise, but my old presbyterian opponent, and began with informing them that he was not one of this sect, that he had been with me four days, and that he never had seen the power of God in this way before, and added, It is the power of God! and gave a warm exhortation for about three quarters of an hour. I then dismissed the people, and told them I was so exhausted that I was unable to speak to them at present; but they still seemed loth to go away. Several quakers asked me questions, but in a friendly manner, concerning the work they had heard of: I told them that their eyes had seen it. The woman, before mentioned, rose up and testified that God had *sanctified* her soul, and spake to the people,

tifying what God had done for her soul. I told them that they had seen how the power of God had wrought upon her. After this, the people withdrew. I spent the evening to my satisfaction with the family, and a neighbour who tarried all night.

Early next morning a young man came in, and after asking how we did, burst into tears: I asked him what was the matter? Why, said he, yesterday my brother was struck under your preaching, and we thought last night that he was dying, and sent for some of the neighbours. He now desires you to come, for he wishes to see you. I told the young man, to inform his brother, that after breakfast I purposed to come. When we went, we found seven or eight of the neighbours, who had assembled in order to see him die. He said, "I was very much terrified yesterday under preaching, and after I got home, I was struck like a clap of thunder, and all my sins were set before me, and I fell like a log on the floor, and thought I was going to die, and expected to be in hell among devils and damned ghosts, which I saw round me ready to receive me; and I cried aloud to God to have mercy on me, and our people thought I was crazy and was going to die; accordingly they sent for our neighbours, as you see. I continued until after midnight."—Well, but, said I, how do you feel now? do you feel that curse, that pain and anxiety in your breast that you did then? No, said he—How do you feel? "Why, I feel at perfect peace, and my heart is as light as a feather." Why, said I, God has converted your soul. At that instant he started on his feet, and threw off his blanket that he had wrapped about him, clapped his hands, and shouted, Glory to God! for what he had done *for him*; and was perfectly well, both in body

and mind. I turned to his mother, and said, Thank God, that you have this day a son born; and to the neighbours, You have seen with your bodily eyes, the mighty power of God. His mother immediately cried out, "Away with you, I want no more of you here. Whitefield was here like you, turning the world upside down: I want no more of your being born again."—Mammy, said I, were you ever born again? Yes, said she. When? said I. When! replied she, why when I was christened—and besides, I took the sacrament when I was fourteen years of age, and was made a member of Christ's mystical body. My dear mother, said I, you were born blind, and are so to the present moment; and then quoted several texts to convince her of her ignorance in the things of God—But she replied, Whitefield was here, before you, driving people mad—Away with you—I want no more of you here. Seeing there was no prospect of doing any more good, I departed in possession of peace, leaving her raging like a devil.

We went on to our appointment, where we had a small congregation of dead stupid people. A few quakers attended, that had been out the day before. After meeting, one of them kindly asked me to go home with him: My next appointment being in his neighbourhood, I went. Next morning, when I enquired for him, I was informed that he had gone out, but would be in again. After some time, he returned; and with him an old friend, whom I took to be a preacher. I then began to think what discourse I should introduce, as I had reason to think he had been brought to try what foundation I stood upon: however, I began to speak of the depths of religion, and what they held, of justification and sanctification: I then told them my convic-

tion and conversion; how the Spirit of the Lord had wrought upon me; and four times in that circuit in such a manner, that it had taken away the use of my limbs. At that instant it came on me so powerfully, that I fell. I endeavoured to quench the Spirit, for I expected, as they were strangers to the like operation, that I should frighten them. In a few minutes, I arose and went into the parlour, where the Spirit of God came on me as if one had pierced a sword through me. I cried out so loud that it alarmed the people at the barn, who came running into the house to see what was the matter; but they hastened as fast out of the house as they came in. I cried out in an amazing manner, and when the Lord had in some measure withdrawn his Spirit, I looked round and found them all in tears. Those who had fled out of the house were at the windows. The old friend, who came with the man of the house, blessed God, with tears in his eyes, that he ever had seen such a man—telling me, if I would go with him, I should preach in their school-house, which was large and convenient. I told him, I could not leave my circuit, but thanked him for his kind offer. But, said he, if thou wilt come to our house, thou mayest preach in our meeting-house. I told him they would not let me.—"Yes, said he, thou art a plain man, and lookest like one of us: I warrant thee, they will let thee." But I told him, I did not know that ever my lot would be cast in that quarter again, and therefore could not promise him.—Well, said he, we will go and hear thee to-day: so the good woman hurried breakfast, and we all went to meeting, which was about one mile distant, where we found a large congregation: for the alarm had spread. I preached, and God attend-

ed the word with power. The power of God struck the woman of the house to the floor. She cried to the Lord for mercy: But she was soon tempted that it was witchcraft, and that she was bewitched, and must now leave her husband and children, and follow me through the world. I returned with the friends, and tarried all night. We spent the evening satisfactorily in conversing on the things of God. In the morning I went to prayer among them; and the man of the house went with me about four miles, and put me into a road that led to the meeting-house; and here we parted in the unity of the Spirit.

When I arrived at my appointment, I found a large congregation, and among the rest, the woman who thought she was bewitched. Here God attended the word with power; some fell, and others ran out of the door. One woman going out, met another coming in, and said to her, Do not go in, for you cannot stand it. Several who had been long in society, professed to have found peace, and others sanctification—We had the shout of a king in the camp—Many said it was the greatest day they had ever seen in that place. I went home with one of our friends, and as he was going to put up my horse, the aforesaid woman came; and I asked her if she was going to tarry all night: She said, she was. I went and asked our friend who the woman was: He said, he did not know. After we had put up our horses, we went over to one of our friends, where we found several of the neighbours, with whom we held a prayer meeting; we had a powerful time, and I was happy in my soul. I returned with my friend, and found his wife and the woman sitting up waiting for us. We went to family prayer, and the power of God so came upon the woman, that she fell to the floor, and cried out, Lord, have I called thy

servant an enchanter? Now I know it is of the Lord; and praised God as she lay on the floor. She arose and said, Now I can go home in peace—and in the morning she departed.

I went on to my appointment, and finding the people flocking together, I had the strangest feelings that I had ever experienced: something like fainty fits. I concluded to go to bed, but seeing such a multitude of people together, I thought I would try to exhort; accordingly I sang and prayed; the panic left me; my soul was set at perfect liberty, and the Lord attended the word with power. I met the society, and had a precious time among the dear people of God. Here I found several under awakening by the Spirit of the Lord. One woman gave me a strange relation of her conversion: she said, "I went to the Roman chapel, out of an idle curiosity—opening a door, I saw the representation of Christ on the cross, and the blood running down the side. It struck me with such an awful sense of my sins, and the satisfaction made through Christ for sin, that it threw me into sore distress for salvation: I went home; and, in about two weeks, found peace and joined society." She appeared to be a worthy member of society, from what I could learn. I spent the evening to my satisfaction in conversing on the things of God.

Next day I set off to my appointment at Potts's Furnace, which for wickedness was next door to hell. Here they swore that they would shoot me. Mrs. Grace hearing of their threats, and being herself unwell and not able to attend, sent a person to moderate the furnace men and colliers. Here brother Sterling met me again. I went into the house and preached with great liberty. Several of the colliers' faces were all *in streaks* where the tears ran down their cheeks.

Brother S. gave an exhortation, and was very happy in delivering the truth. After meeting, we went to Mrs. Grace's at the forge; the old lady took me by the hand and said, "I never was so glad to see a man in the world, for I was afraid that some of the furnace men had killed you, for they swore bitterly that they would shoot you." We tarried all night, and next day preached, and the Lord was very precious; many wept and sighed. Mrs. Grace seemed desirous that we should appoint another meeting; we did so, and she sent out and gave information, and brother C. preached: for I was so broken down, that I was unable to say much, and after him, brother S. gave an exhortation. After meeting we spent the evening very agreeably with Mrs. Grace, her daughter, and grand daughters; her daughter was under conviction. Next morning, in family prayer, we had a precious time, the Lord opened the windows of heaven, and the Spirit of God came as in the days of pentecost; her daughter found peace, and one of the grand-daughters was under soul distress, while the old lady was on the wing for glory. Brother S. brother C. and myself parted here. They went home, and I went to my appointment at D. F.'s; and there we had a clever congregation, but the people were afraid to sit near me, having been informed that the people on the circuit fell like dead men. I preached, and we had a powerful time, many were cut to the heart, some fell to the floor, and several cried aloud for mercy.

Next day I preached at Cloud's meeting-house, and at night held a prayer-meeting at their house, it seemed to be the only cry of Christians, for clean hearts. Several were lost in the ocean of love: we had a powerful, melting, shouting time.

Next day, I set off for home, and went to Wilmington and preached in an old store-house on the wharf. Some people went through the town and said, there was an old sailor cursing and swearing at a terrible rate: this brought the people together from every quarter, and the house and wharf were crowded. Some wept, some laughed, and others mocked: some were awakened and came to me and enquired what they should do to be saved: I told them to look to Jesus and they should find rest to their souls.

During this round on the circuit, twenty-four professed sanctification, and how many more were justified I know not; but at one place (Mr. Beam's) they informed me that there were twelve.

I left Wilmington and went to New-Castle, crossed the Delaware, and so returned home, much broken down, and had so lost my voice, that the friends thought I would never be able to preach any more, unless it were to whisper a little; but in about two months I had recovered my speech again tolerably well, and longed to be in the Lord's vineyard again.

My son David was now a preacher, and riding on Kent circuit, Maryland, and I received a letter from him, requesting me to come and take his circuit while he came home, to see his mother, brothers, sisters, and friends. I got myself ready and crossed the Delaware again at New-Casle, and went to the head of Elk to S. T.'s, and preached, and I charitably hope, some good seed was sown; though we had no class there.

I went on to my next appointment, at one Simmons's, where I preached and had a powerful time. Some were awakened, and enquired *what* they must do to be saved. I met the class, *and had* a precious time among the little few.

Next day at my appointment, God attended the word with power; many felt the effect thereof, and many wept, both white and black. After dismissing the people, we had a powerful time in class; many fell to the floor, among whom was the man of the house; several professed sanctification. and some to be justified. Next day, being the sabbath, I preached there again; in the morning I met the black class in the barn, many fell to the floor like dead men, while others cried aloud for mercy; but I had to leave them, as it was time to attend my appointment. When I came to the place, it was computed there were about one thousand people and a clergyman among them, I preached in the woods, and the Lord preached from heaven in his Spirit's power, and the people fell on the right and on the left; I saw that many were in a flutter and ready to flee. I told them to stand still and look to themselves, for God Almighty was come into the camp. They kept their stations and did not flee. I continued to invite them to fly to Jesus the ark of safety. It was a great day to many souls. After I had concluded, a gentleman present said to me, "I want to talk with you, and when you pass through our town, I request you to call on me:" Another gentleman present, pointing at the first, said this is our clergyman; I told him, I would endeavour to call on him; but at present must hasten to my afternoon appointment, leaving the slain and wounded on the field. When I came to the place, I found a large congregation assembled; here I preached with great liberty, and many fell to the earth both white and black; some as dead men, while others were screaming and crying aloud to God for mercy. After preaching, the gentleman, who had shewed me their clergyman, invited me

home with him. When I came to his house, such attendance I had never met with; for as soon as I came in, he ordered a young negro to pull off my boots and to put on me a pair of slippers. I told the lad to let me pull them off myself; but the gentleman screamed out at him, because he did not seize hold and pull them off; I was obliged to submit. He then opened a large library; I soon found he was a well read man, but had no knowledge of God. He told me, if what he had that day heard and seen was religion, he must confess he knew nothing of the matter, although he professed himself a good churchman. He told me that their minister was both a drunkard and a liar, and advised me not to go near him; but I told him that I had promised, and must go, or they would call me a liar. Well, said he, I will go with you, that he may not misrepresent you when you are gone. After family duty, I went to bed; I observed by my head a pair of pistols, which I did not desire so near me, but I said nothing. Next morning we went to see the clergyman; but we stopped at a friend's house of his, who said to me, tarry here, and I will go and bring the clergyman. He went, but did not find him at home. We then went on, and crossed the river, where I preached to a small congregation. Here the gentleman and I parted: We had a happy time in class: Here I saw what I never had met with before, twenty women in class, and but one man, and he an African.

I went next day to one Howard's, and preached to a large attentive congregation: had an alarming time; they heard as for eternity; the word reached many hearts. I met class, and had a precious time in pressing holiness of heart on them. As I was speaking, one woman trem-

bled, and fell to the floor; and after some time she lay still; and when she came to, she said that God had sanctified her soul. Then told her dream that she had the night before. I dreamed, said she, that I saw a plain old man, with strings in his shoes, and I saw every feature in his face, and he reached out, and gave me a clean piece of paper; and I believe it represented a clean heart; and now I know that God has sanctified me.

Next day, I proceeded to my appointment at brother H's—had a crowded house; and preached from these words—*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* The Lord attended the word with great power; the people fell, screamed, screeched, and cried aloud for mercy. Here I was as happy as I could live in the body; many were awakened, and one great sinner stood amazed and struck with wonder at what his eyes saw. After preaching, met the class and had a most powerful time. Some lost the power of their bodies, and we had a shout in the Lord's camp.

Next day I went to my appointment; the rumour of the work of the Lord caused many to attend the word. Looking round, I saw the big man again, he being of an uncommon size—in my application, the Lord opened the windows of heaven, and rained down righteousness on the people. I proceeded to meet the class, but the power of God came in such a manner, that it prevented me. We had a shout in Israel's camp; some shouted praises to God, others cried aloud to him for mercy, many lay on the floor as dead men, others all bathed in tears. *And the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.* Thus our meeting continued for the space of three hours before

it broke up, and I found the big man on his knees at prayer,

Next day I preached to a small congregation of hard-hearted, stiff-necked, uncircumcised sinners, and felt but little freedom among them. After preaching, met the little class; spake freely to them, and impressed holiness on them with all my powers, but found them rather dead and stupid. Here I met with a man that gave me a strange relation—That he had seen a spirit, and knowing it to be his mother, he was much surprised, and she told him he must meet her at a place she named to him, on the next evening, and that she would discover to him her business: he asked her if he might bring a friend or two with him; she said he might bring them within some small distance from the place appointed; he took several with him, and they tarried accordingly, and he went forward to the place she had appointed, and there she met him and told him that at a certain spring, at such a tree and such a distance from the tree, she had buried half a dozen plates for him when he was a small child. When she had concluded, she vanished out of his sight, and they all returned to the house. He went to the place, found the spring and the tree, and soon found the plates; he took them up, and brought them home, and they were then in his possession.

Next morning I went to the place of my appointment, where I found many hundreds collected on the occasion of a funeral there that day. The minister who preached the funeral sermon, being of the church form, went through the ceremonies thereof, and then preached a short, easy, smooth, soft sermon, which amounted to almost nothing. By this time a gust was rising, and the firmament was covered *with* blackness; two clouds appeared to

come from different quarters, and to meet over the house, which caused the people to crowd into the house, up stairs and down, to screen themselves from the storm: when the minister had done, he asked me if I would say something to the people. I arose, and with some difficulty got on one of the benches, the house was so greatly crowded; and almost as soon as I began, the Lord out of heaven began also. The tremendous claps of thunder exceeded any thing I ever had heard, and the streams of lightning flashed through the house in a most awful manner! It shook the very foundation of the house, the windows jarred with the violence thereof. I lost no time, but set before them the awful coming of Christ, in all his splendor, with all the armies of heaven, to judge this world and to take vengeance on the ungodly! It may be, cried I, that he will descend in the next clap of thunder! the people screamed, screeched, and fell all through the house. The lightning, thunder, and rain continued for about the space of one hour, in the most awful manner ever known in that country! during which time, I continued to set before the people, the coming of Christ to judge the world; warning and inviting sinners to flee to Christ. One old sinner, made an attempt to go, but he had not gone far before he fell. Some went to him and put him in a carriage, and took him home, where, as I was informed, he remained three days and three nights and neither ate nor drank. When the storm abated we broke up the meeting; many were that day convinced, and many converted.*

* Fourteen years after, when I rode that circuit, I conversed with twelve living witnesses, who told me that they were all converted at that storm, and also of divers others, who had gone

I went to my next appointment, preached to the people with some feeling, but saw little prospect of any good being done.

I went on to quarterly meeting, which was held in brother Simmon's barn, where I met brother Sterling, from New-Jersey, whom I was glad to see. We had a large congregation; one of our preachers preached, several spoke by exhortation, and we had a good time on Saturday. On Sabbath morning we had love-feast, the people spoke freely, and we had a precious time. After love-feast, I preached, and God attended the word with power; many cried aloud, and some fell to the floor. After I concluded, brother Ivy gave an exhortation and spoke very powerfully; many wept under his exhortation: and after him, several others gave exhortations. A number were converted and some were sanctified, but how many I never knew. Here my kind friend, Mr. K. invited me to his house, and told me to bring my friends with me: accordingly I took brother Sterling, and went home with him. Here, I thank God, I was at no loss; brother S. returned the compliment with which he congratulated us on our arrival, as became the christian and gentleman. We soon fell into conversation on the things of God. At time of Family worship, abundance of black people assembled in the kitchen, and the door was set open that they might hear without coming into the parlour. I gave out a hymn, brother Sterling went to prayer, and after him myself. The power of the Lord came down in a wonderful manner a-

from time to eternity, during my absence of fourteen years, and of several who had moved out of the neighbourhood.

mong the black people, some cried aloud, and others fell to the floor, some praising God, and some crying for mercy: after we had concluded, brother S. went among them, where he continued upwards of one hour, exhorting them to fly to Jesus the ark of safety.

Next day, we set our faces homewards, and arrived at New-castle, and preached in the evening at brothey F.'s to a hard-hearted disobedient people; but I endeavoured to declare to them the terrors of the Law, and promises of the gospel.

Next day I crossed the river and returned home, where I found my family well, for which and every other mercy, I desire to be ever truly thankful to the great Author of all good; who had brought me again in safety to my habitation in peace; and had attended his unworthy dust, when absent in his service, with his Spirit's power, for which my soul adores the God and rock of my salvation.

Some time after this, my son David was riding in the Delaware State on the Dover circuit, and I crossed the Delaware river in order to meet him, at J. S's but being a day too late, he had departed very sorrowful, concluding I was sick, as he had written requesting me to meet him there; however I pushed after him, and overtook him at Duck-creek cross-roads, preaching to a large congregation in an orchard; but coming behind him, he saw nothing of me until he concluded; and as soon as he stepped off the stand, I stepped on, and gave an exhortation, and instantly God attended the truth with power, the people cried aloud and we had a shout in the camp; but as it was likely to interfere with our next appointment, I dismissed the people, and went to Blackton's meeting-house, where the people expected me, and a large multitude was

assembled. I preached with life and power, and the Lord attended the word; many wept; and I trust some good was done. I went home with friend Blackston. In the evening met class and gave them an exhortation, and endeavoured to show the nature and necessity of perfection, or holiness of heart, and pressed it home upon them, with all the ability that God gave me. While speaking to the society one cried out, then another, and the cry became general, and there was such a weeping, crying and shouting, that I could not speak to them any more. One young woman cried out that she was not an angel, but she knew that God had given her a clean heart, and had sanctified her soul. A young man ran to me and clasped me about the neck, and said, I am a baptist, but I know the Lord is here, I feel his Spirit. This continued for some time, and I said, There is no occasion for me to say any thing more, for the Master of assemblies has met you himself, and has spoken to every heart. Here I was as happy myself, as I knew how to continue in the body.

Next day, my son returned home to see his friends, and I went on the circuit in his room. At the next appointment, I preached and the Lord manifested his power and presence amongst us. One sinner fell to the floor, and cried mightily to God to have mercy on his soul. I went on, and when I came to the application, I exhorted them to fly to Christ: Here, said I, you see the power of God, and Christ is exalted on his throne: why will you die, and sell your souls to the devil? I desired the christians to withdraw out of the room, and let sinners come and see for themselves: they did so, and when they came in, I said, Here you see *the power* of God on this young man (he was

then almost exhausted laying on the floor; if this be of hell, as some of you may think it is, when he comes to, he will curse and swear; but if it be of God, he will praise him. When he revived again, he began to praise God for what he done for his soul, and told them that God had forgiven his sins, and exhorted them to seek the Lord. Hark! said I, this is not the language of hell, but of Canaan: a language that has gone through your land and you do not understand it.

Next day I went to my appointment, where I was informed, that the children of the devil were greatly offended, and intended that day to kill me; here I had a crowded congregation. I preached, and God attended the word with power, several made an attempt to go out, but the crowd was so great about the door, they were obliged to stay. They began quickly to fall to the floor, and to cry aloud, so that we soon had a proper shout in the camp. The Lord was very powerful: one young man was struck to the floor, and many said that he was dead; but I told them that he was not dead. I told them to take him up and lay him on a bed, where he lay about three hours, and many continued to say he was dead. I now began to be greatly exercised, it being the first time I ever had felt any fears, lest any one should expire under the mighty power of God. He lay in so dead a state, and continued so long, that his flesh grew cold, and his blood was stagnated to his elbows; his fingers were spread, and about half shut, and in so stiff a condition, that they could not be straightened. Very great and various were my exercises, during this period. I concluded to go home, and not proceed one step farther, for killing people would not answer; but at last he came to; and as soon as he could

speak, he began to praise God for what he had done for his soul. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

Next day I went to my other appointment, and preached in a barn, to a large congregation, and spoke with freedom; many wept. Here I met two young Nicholites, who came and spoke freely to me concerning spiritual things. I believe they were both christians. One of them followed me three days, and departed in great love and tenderness.

My next appointment was in a local preacher's house; he having heard what was going on, began to tell me he looked upon it all confusion, for that God was a God of order. I told him that he might rest assured that it was the power of God; however, the people gathered, and I preached. The power of God seized a woman sitting before me, suckling her child, she began to tremble, and fell back on the floor. After she came to, she sprang up, clapping her hands, and crying aloud, Tell the sinners it is the work of the Lord! This alarmed the town, and brought many people together, and the Spirit of the eternal God laid hold on several of them; many wept. I had not spoken long, before the slain and wounded lay all through the house, and among the rest, the local preacher; some crying for mercy, and others praising God for what he had done for their souls, testifying that he had justified them, and set their souls at liberty: and one professed sanctification. I desired the class to stop, and spoke first to the local preacher. What do you think of it now my brother, is it the work of God or not? O! said he, I never thought that God would pour out his Spirit in such a manner, for I could not move hand nor foot any more than if I had been *dead; but* I am as happy as I can live—We had

a precious time among God's people. Here I found many precious souls.

Next day I went to brother Cole's, preached, and had a precious time. Here I found a lively class. A predestinarian woman staid in class: when I spoke to her, she began to dispute about principles: I endeavoured to shew her that Christ had died for all, and not for a few only, according to her notion. She got convinced, and joined society; I spent the evening in conversing on the things of God.

Next morning, being the Lord's day, I went to the preaching-house, where I found many hundreds gathered. It was supposed the house, although large, did not hold half the people. I preached with great freedom, and was not at a loss for matter. Many wept, but I cannot say much good was done. I spent the evening at brother Cole's, in conversing on the things of God, and what he was doing through the land.

I went from hence to brother E.'s, and preached in a barn to a large congregation; here the work of the Lord broke out with power; many cried aloud for mercy, others were rejoicing in God their Saviour. Here I met with C. R. a pious young woman, who professed sanctification, and her life corresponded therewith.

At my next appointment, I preached to a large congregation in the woods, and was informed, that I was to be attacked by the clerk of the church, who had attacked some of our preachers. The power of God attended the word, and the clerk sat with his spectacles wrong side up, twisting and wringing his mouth, and pulling and tugging those near him, until they grew ashamed of him, and moved. I fixed my eyes on him, seeing his behaviour, and cried as loud as I was able, The devil is come into the

camp! The devil is come into the camp! Help men of Israel! Every man and woman to their sword! Cry mightily to God, that the power of hell may be shaken, and suffer loss! In an instant, we had the shout of a king in the camp; the clerk took off his spectacles, hung his head, and did not raise it again until I had done. When service was over, many came and asked me, if I did not see the devil bodily: I told them no; I only saw one of his agents acting for him. Several broken-hearted sinners flocked round me; I requested them to go to the house, where I was to meet class. We had the house so full, I concluded only to sing, and pray, and give an exhortation. I enforced the necessity of sanctification, and told them what God was doing on the circuit. Brother E. was soon on the floor, and quickly another fell, and soon there were four down. In the mean time I did not forget sinners, and they began to fall: six or seven were soon down. Here C. R. the pious young woman, before mentioned, helped me in the work of the Lord: the meeting lasted near or quite two hours

Next day I met brother Asbury, at brother T. White's, on my way to quarterly meeting, and about twenty other preachers. Sister White I believe was an Israelite indeed, in whom there was no guile. Brother Asbury asked me, what news from the sea coast? Why, said one of the preachers, he can tell you nothing. Yes, yes, said brother Asbury, he can tell us something. I then related how God was carrying on his work; and they were amazed. Brother Asbury called me up stairs, and told me I must preach that evening. I told him I could not, as they were all preachers. Well, said he, you must exhort after me. I said, Perhaps I may. *We went* down, and he preached; and after

He had done, I arose, and as they were mostly preachers, I concluded only to tell my experience, and so related my conviction and conversion, and exhorted them all to holiness of heart, and so concluded. In the morning, brother A. stroked down my head, and said, Brother Abbott, the black coats scared you last night. To which I replied, What could I say, they were nearly all preachers? We all set out for quarterly meeting: sister White came to me, as was on horseback, took me by the hand, exhorting me for some time. I felt very happy under her wholesome admonitions. Towards evening, not far from the place, we stopped at a door, and brother A. said to the man of the house, you must send out, and gather your neighbours—and turning to me, he said, You must preach here to night. At candle-light, we had a large congregation. I preached, some wept, some sighed, and others groaned; but I cannot say much good was done; however, I hope it was not altogether labour lost.

Next morning we went to quarterly meeting at Barrett's chapel. Here we had a large congregation, to whom brother Asbury preached, and afterwards he called on me to give an exhortation. Some of the preachers wondered where he had gathered up that old fellow. I sang, prayed, and began to exhort, and God laid to his helping hand, and came down in his Spirit's power as in ancient days, some fell to the floor, others ran out of the house, many cried aloud for mercy, and others were shouting praises to the God of hosts, with hearts full of love divine. Seeing the people set on the joists up stairs, I was afraid they would fall through, this caused me to withhold: I quitted the pulpit, and there was an exhortation or two given, and the meeting broke up. After meeting, brother Asbury

said, brother Abbot, you must go home with such a gentleman, and then went to the gentleman, and brought him to me, and I went with him. After dinner, I conversed with divers christian friends, of the dealings of God with his people, and what he was doing through our land. In the evening I asked if any of them could sing,

Still out of the deepeſt abyſs
Of trouble, I mournfully cry;
I pine to recover my peace,
To ſee my Redeemer and die.

A gentleman from Dorchester answered, he could, and they sang it with such melodious voices, and with the spirit, that it was attended with great power. The gentleman's lady and two others, fell to the floor. When done singing, we kneeled down to pray, and several fell: The man of the house, who had been a backslider, got restored; many prayers were sent up to God, both by men and women: Our meeting continued three hours.

Next morning, our love-feast began at sunrise; I just made out to get there as the doors were shut: the crowd was so great, that we could not go round with the bread and water as usual. It was supposed that as many were outside, as in the house. After singing and prayer, brother Asbury opened the love-feast and bade the people to speak. Many of them spoke very powerfully; several exhortations were given in intervals by the preachers; we had a precious time. The house being opened, one of the preachers preached, and several spoke by way of exhortation, which was attended with power, and we had a peaceable waiting before the Lord. After this meeting, I returned home again, where I arrived in safety and peace. Thanks be to God *for the same.*

My wife had been in a poor state of health for about seven years. About six weeks before her death, she told me that God would remove one of us, and I believe, said she, that you ought to be in his vineyard, and if I am the cross, I shall be removed from you. About the same time, she besought God to deliver her from her affliction of body, that she had so long laboured under; and in one moment, she was restored to as perfect health as ever she had enjoyed in all her life, and continued so until the day of her death, which was about six weeks after. On the day, which she died, she had been to market, and returned home in the evening. When I came into the house, we had some conversation and soon after, she said, I feel very strange—send for brother Bilderback, to bleed me; for I believe I am going to have a fit of the cholic. He came and made several attempts to let blood, but found it so stagnated, that it would not run. My daughter Hannah, stepped to her and said, "Mamma, you are dying!" She immediately besought God, in prayer, to receive her soul, when it should take its flight from time to eternity. After she had done, I kneeled down, and prayed to God, that she might have an easy passage. She continued clapping her hands, all the time I was at prayer; although she had the rattles of death on her. I asked her, if she saw heaven sweetly opened before her. She was speechless; but made three nods with her head, and her soul took its flight without either sigh, groan, or throb. I felt a perfect resignation to the will of God, so that I could truly say the Lord's prayer, *Thy will be done.* Neither did I feel a spirit of mourning, as the world feels, for I was sensible my loss was her eternal gain, which was to me a consolation. The manner of her life, from

the time she became a christian, was exemplary, she set apart three times a day, for private prayer, and I never knew her to omit it. And when I was absent, she always kept up family prayer. She departed this life on the 14th of July 1788.

"Lord, she was thine, and not my own,
Thou hast not done me wrong:
I thank thee for the precious loan,
Afforded me so long." NEWTON.

THE EXPERIENCE, &c.

PART THE SECOND.

Containing his Travels and Gospel Labours, after he entered the Methodist itinerant Connection, in April 1789, *until about May* 1795.

IN the forepart of the year 1789, I found it my duty to labour in the Lord's vineyard, as a travelling preacher; having heretofore considered myself only as a local preacher. I therefore arranged and settled my temporal affairs, and in April 1789, went to the conference held at Trenton, for the district of New-Jersey, where I was received on trial as an itinerant preacher, agreeably to the discipline of the Methodist-episcopal church, and was appointed to Dutchess circuit, state of New-York. Accordingly, I took my station. I found the circuit was new, and but few converted souls on it. I rode round, and strove to regulate the classes; and my mind was much drawn out to preach up sanctification to the people; but I consulted our presiding elder, brother Garrettson, on the occasion, and he told me it was not worth while to preach sanctification to unjustified souls. But at a certain place, finding six believers in one class, I thought proper that day to preach sanctification: after I had done, a man and a woman told me if there was such a blessing to be attained, they were determined to seek it. I told them, God would as surely sanctify them as that they had

souls, if they would seek and contend for the blessing.

One morning, the woman went six times behind a rock, and prayed, still without receiving the blessing; she went again, the seventh time, and the Spirit of the Lord came so upon her, that she fell to the ground; and the Lord took away the heart of stone and gave her a heart of flesh, and sprinkled her as with clean water, and gave her an evidence that he had sanctified her soul. She then went to one of the near neighbours, and the same power came upon her there, that had done behind the rock, and they all received a blessing, and had a shout among them.

The man, likewise, being engaged for sanctification, retired one evening to a little mount before his door, where he was in great agony, and thought he saw the devil stand just before him, on the mount; he arose from his knees to go to the house, but on his way determined that he would not be beat off by the devil, and accordingly returned again to the mount, where he wrestled with God in prayer, until the devil gave way: he then fell before God, but how long he laid he could not tell; but when he came to, he knew that God had sanctified his soul.

When I went to my next appointment and preached, I saw some little signs of good, but not much. I met the class, and found but few, if any, that knew the pardoning love of God.

Next day I went to a place called Dover, and preached in the church: here I saw but little effects. I went home with brother W. and met class. Here were some precious souls, who had a peaceable waiting before God.

Next day I went to Sharon, and preached to so large a congregation, that I had to stand out of the door. The people were presbyterians,

and knew but little about methodism. Here God attended the word with power and authority, so that many wept, and some cried aloud. Soon as I had concluded, up rose an old man, and began to exhort, with tears in his eyes, desiring the people to believe, adding, "It is the true gospel that you have heard this day." After him, arose another, weeping, and exhorting the people to believe, for these were the truths of God. I then dismissed the people and returned to the house, and about twenty followed me, enquiring what they must do to be saved. I exhorted them to fly to Jesus the ark of true safety.

Next day I went to my appointment and preached, and saw but little fruit; a few wept. The people here were chiefly presbyterians, baptists, and congregationalists. I met the class, and found the woman of the house an old Israelite.

Next day I preached to a small congregation; the Lord attended the word with power, and seven joined society.

Next day I went to my appointment, where I found a congregational minister, and the greatest part of his hearers. I preached with great liberty and care. After dismissing the people, a dispute quickly arose, and a number, both men and women, contended warmly with me, without the least regard to order. I was obliged to request them, to speak one at a time. Our dispute continued a long time.

Next day I went on to my appointment, and preached: here some wept. I met the little class, and found a few that had obtained peace. After I had dismissed the class, I was attacked by a baptist, who said, "*If any man say he hath no sin he is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*" I replied, My brother, do you live in

sin? Yes, said he, every day. Then, said I, I will prove you, by the word of God, to be a child of the devil, and an heir of damnation: for St. John tells us, *He that committeth sin, is of the devil; for this purpose, the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil; whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.* 1 John iii. 8, 9. Now, St. John or you are mistaken; and I desire to know where you keep this devil, that sins in you, whether in your heart, flesh, or head, or where he is: for Christ and Belial can have no concord together? This body, or this flesh, cannot commit sin without the assent of the will, which is the spring of action, and one of the noblest faculties of the soul. Try the experiment: put your hand to your head, or rise out of your chair without the assent of your will. He, being confounded, and several beginning to laugh, arose, and appeared very angry, and so withdrew.

I went to my next appointment, where I preached; some wept, and some sighed. I met the class and had a melting time.

At my next appointment, I preached, and the Lord attended the word with power. Some were cut to the heart, and cried aloud to God for mercy, and we had the shout of a king in the camp. I met the class, and two young men joined society, who had been, a few days before, trying which could swear the most profane oath. Now they both professed faith in Christ; upon which the father of one of them sent him to their minister to learn their articles of faith, &c. &c. He staid four weeks, and by that time lost all his desires for salvation, and could curse and swear as fast as ever; for said he, "If I am to be saved, I shall be saved, and if I am to be damned it matters not whether I swear or pray." *I then turned him out of class.*

At my next appointment, the people were chiefly Dutch. I preached to them, and God attended the word with power; many wept, and God was with us of a truth: two young men were cut to the heart, and cried aloud for mercy. When the meeting was over, I asked them to stay to class; they did so, and declared that God had broken into their souls; and, for Christ's sake, had filled them with such joy and peace as they never had felt before. And likewise, an elderly woman and her two daughters found peace.

I went on to my next appointment, and God attended the word with power; many wept; and one baptist woman, that had fallen from grace, was restored to the love of God again: I met the class, and invited her in; after speaking to the members, I spoke to her. Now, said I, God has shewed you the absurdity of your principles; she replied, I renounce them all, and if you are willing to receive me, I wish to join your society. I then asked the class if they were willing to receive her; they said they were, so I admitted her into society.

I preached in Baston Row's barn, from these words, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* Matt. vii. 21. Here the Lord manifested his power amongst us. J. R. being awakened, desired preaching might be at his house: accordingly I went there, and preached to a large congregation, and God attended the word with power; one young woman fell to the floor, and when she arose, she bore a living testimony that God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven her sins, and said, there was not a greater sinner in the barn than she had been. Many wept, and among the rest an old quaker woman

and her daughter, who went home all bathed in tears. Some days after, she told her sister what a strange old man she had seen and heard, and that she never had such feelings before in all her life; for she had cried all next day, and could not help it. But, said she, I will never go to hear him any more. John Row, his wife and daughter, his brother and his wife, and his three negroes, all found the Lord. This day my soul was on the wing, and I formed a class, who were mostly Germans.

Next day, on my way to my appointment, I met with brother Garrettson, and went to Mr. Sands's and dined: after I had been some time in the house, discoursing with the people, the Spirit of God came upon me, and I asked them if I might go to prayer, which was granted, and while I was at prayer, their eldest daughter cried out, and an awfulness rested on her father and mother. After prayer, I was about to set off, but Mr. Sands said, Stop a while and I will go with you; I did so, and he went. I preached; and the Lord manifested his presence amongst us: one German woman cried aloud, and more were melted into tears. Their minister, who was a presbyterian, was there, and looked very wild, but said nothing. After I had got to Mr. Sands's, the woman, before mentioned, sent for me: Mr. Sands went with me, and when we got there, we found the minister and several others, who had all arrived before us. I asked the woman, for what intent she had sent for me; she answered, that she had been powerfully wrought upon under preaching, and that she was a sinner and an undone creature, without Christ. I endeavoured to apply the promises, and told her that she had no where to fly for safety, only to Christ; and I asked the

minister, if it were not so; he replied, it was: I then went on to urge obedience, and the means of grace; and again asked him, if it were not so; he replied, Yes, but there is no living here without sin. I did not like to fight, but being challenged, I could not avoid it. I then asked him, if he was a minister of Christ: he replied, he was. What, said I, a minister and live in sin. Yes, said he. I then quoted 1 John iii. 8, 9, and many other passages, and asked him, what he did with his sins; he replied, that he set them all down to Christ's account. I then quoted a variety of other texts; but he replied, I cannot English them, and therefore cannot dispute with you. Then, said I, let us pray. I first besought God to deliver the woman, and then the family and minister. I bade them farewell, and went to my friend Sands's, who desired me to make his house my home while I staid in that quarter. I spent the evening in conversing on the things of God, and what I had seen of his power: they were in tears all the while, the father, mother and daughter. Next morning, he said, We must have preaching here. I said, Very well, give it out; he did so, and I preached to a large congregation, and the power of the Lord was present, and some of the great ones of the earth, who were there, wept sore; and I spoke to them freely, one by one, as if they were in class. The two daughters, and themselves found peace, and their son-in-law was powerfully wrought upon. I spent many an hour with these dear people of God. One evening, as I was reading a chapter in the bible, the power of the Lord came down on us, so that we all cried out, and I said, Let us pray. We kneeled down and prayed, and it was a precious time. In the morning C. S. said, he never was so happy in all his life.

Next day I went on to my appointment, where we had a large congregation: I preached with life and power, and God attended the word with the energy of his Spirit. A quaker girl was powerfully wrought upon, so that every joint in her shook, and she would have fallen to the floor, but four or five took and carried her out of the door; when she had recovered a little, she went to a neighbour's house, and told him that she had seen the dreadfullest old man that she ever saw in all her life, and that he almost scared her to death, for his eyes looked like two balls of fire, and that she expected every minute he would jump at her. But, said the neighbour, I know the old man, and he would not hurt nor touch you.—I went on, and the power of the Lord continued amongst us, in such a manner that many fell to the floor, and others cried aloud for mercy. One young woman rose and began to exhort the people; I stopped preaching, which I always judged was best, in similar instances, and let God send by whom he will send: she went on for some time with great life and power, and then cried out, "Let us pray;" we all kneeled down, and she prayed with life and liberty, until she was spent, and so forbore. A preacher being present, I called on him, and he went to prayer, and while he was praying, three were set at liberty; and, after him, myself and others prayed, and several received justifying faith. The shout continued for the space of three or four hours: after meeting broke up, I thought it was not necessary to meet the class, as we had had such a powerful time, and it had lasted so long already. The young woman who had given the exhortation and prayed, took five others with her, and retired to the barn to pray for the mourners, who went with them, where they continued until late in the *evening, and* three souls were set at liberty; and

another, as she was returning home, in sore distress, fell on her face in the woods, where she continued in prager until God set her soul at liberty to rejoice in his love. An old presbyterian woman requested me to call at her house, on the ensuing day, as she wanted to discourse with me on religion; I did call, and she received me very kindly, and then related her conviction and conversion, and added, that some years after, God had sealed her his to the day of eternity; and said she, Neither our preachers or people will believe me, when I tell them how happy I am. I then endeavoured to explain to her, the nature of sanctification, and what it was, and asked her if we should pray together: she replied, With all my heart. After prayer I departed in peace, having no doubt but that God had sanctified her soul and body. She was the first presbyterian that I ever had met with, that would acknowledge sanctification, in its proper sense.

I went to my next appointment, where I had put brother G. D. who professed sanctification, class leader, and the Lord attended his words with power. This had brought the man of the house, where the class met, into doubts, whether the work was of God or the devil; for the people had frequently fallen, both under his prayer and exhortation. Soon as I came to the house, he related how great his exercises had been respecting the work. "One day, said he, I thought I would go down to my stack-yard, which stood some distance from the house, and there pray to God to discover the reality of it to me; and on my way thither, as I sat on a fence, I thought I saw a man sitting on the next pannel; I got off and went down to the stacks, and the man went with me, side by side, and when I kneeled down to pray, the man stood right be-

fore me. I prayed until my shirt was wet on my back, entreating God, that he would give me some token, whereby I might know whether the work was of him or not. The man who stood before me said, *Blessed are those that are pure in heart.* I then arose to see whether he was a man or not, and went to put my hand upon him; and he said, *Touch me not.* I then turned myself round, another way, and he stood right before me again, and said several other words, which I do not relate, and then vanished or ascended as in a flame of fire," Now, said I, do you doubt about the matter, whether the work is of God or not? No, said he, I have now no doubts about it, for God has sent his angel to confirm me. I then went and preached, the Lord was present. We had a glorious time, and several fell to the floor; we had a precious time also in class, and two joined society.

Next day, I went to my appointment, and found a large congregation. I preached, and the power of the Lord attended the word. One young man sprang from the bench, and cried aloud for mercy, then fell on his knees and prayed fervently: I stopped preaching, and when he was done, I went to prayer with him, and after me, several others—many wept, some cried aloud for mercy, and others fell to the floor. When I dismissed the people, to meet class, I invited the young man in. Here we had a precious season among the dear people of God, and some mourners were set at liberty. The young man, soon after, went to his brother-in-law's to make hay, and there arose a thunder-storm, and he, being under great distress, in the agony of his soul, kneeled down and went to prayer; his brother-in-law came to *him, and* beat him with his pitch-fork, and

swore that he would kill him, if he did not promise that he would not go to methodist meeting any more: accordingly, he promised him that he would not go, and immediateiy he went into deep despair. His parents soon found, that his despair affected him in his understanding, and they watched him lest he should make way with himself. His mind was wretched and filled with horror, and his cry was, that he had committed the unpardonable sin. That he had sinned against the Holy Ghost! in promising not to go to the methodist meeting any more. In this melancholy desperation, before four weeks were expired, he stole away privately and hanged himself. This was the end of that poor unfortunate young man.—How careful ought parents, and those who have the care of youth under them, to be, when they attempt to restrain them in matters of religion, lest they bring down their own hairs with sorrow to the grave, or are left to relent their own imprudent conduct when it may be eternally too late. And how must they feel, or answer it at the bar of God, who have made themselves instruments in the hands of the devil, to restrain youth from the worship of God, while they have allowed them to live in all manner of vice, without restraint; but alas! how many such are to be found, who are enemies to God and all good.

Our quarterly meeting was held at brother G's; many attended it, and brother Garrettson being our presiding elder, opened the meeting, and administered the sacrament; we had a precious time. In love-feast, many spoke feelingly of the dealings of God to their souls, and seemed lost in the ocean of love; and many wept. After love feast brother J. preached, and several exhortations were given, and we had a precious quarterly meeting.

Next day, when I retired into a private room, and poured out my soul in prayer, the power of God came upon me in a wonderful manner, and I went out and told sister J. (her husband being absent) that we would have a prayer-meeting; the family came together and among them a presbyterian girl, and the power of the Lord, came upon them so that the girl and family all cried out. I then went to my next appointment and preached. Here were two baptist men that had been convinced of the truth of what I preached, and followed me from place to place. One of them, as I was to preach in a baptist settlement, invited their minister to come and hear me; accordingly two of them came. I preached from these words—*By grace ye are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.* I endeavoured to show that the graces of the Spirit were the gift of God. Neither of the preachers said any thing: but one of the men arose and said, Do not let us ever say any more, as we have done, in our church, that we *cannot* do any thing; but that we *will not* do any thing. Here I met with an old Whitefieldite, who was exceedingly happy; he told his experience, and said, it was the case in Whitefield's time, about forty five years ago, much as it is now, in the divine power attending the word preached. The ministers perceiving they were in danger of losing these members, one of them went home with one of the men, he being a rich man they were loth to give him up, and tarried with him all day, and at night the other came and tarried until morning, but all to no purpose: he determined to go and hear me again, and invited the minister to go with him. They both set out, but the minister seeing he was not likely to *prevail,* turned another way, and he came to

meeting, where we had a precious melting season, in waiting before God. After preaching, I desired all those who had a desire to join society, to stay in class with us; accordingly the baptist man and some others staid in. I met society, and we had a precious time amongst us. He and three others joined society; one of them I advised to betake herself to her father's barn, as a place of prayer and retirement, and there frequently to supplicate the throne of grace, and I did not doubt, but before that day four weeks, she would receive the pardoning love of God; but she neglected it from day to day, until one night she dreamed that she saw the elements all on fire, and that it broke out on Fishkill mountain; and that she saw the Lord appearing with all his mighty host to judge the world, that the fire had reached one of their fields, and drew near the house, and that she was unprepared to meet God. Her screeches and screams alarmed all the people in the house; she sprang out of bed, and they did the same; it was some time before they could convince her, but what the day of judgment had in reality commenced. This increased her distress, and soon after she found peace to her soul.

At my next appointment, I had a baptist preacher to hear me—many wept—I told him to wait; and any well disposed person might do the same. When I spoke to the leader, I found him to be a Calvinist, and asked, who made him a leader? They said, brother Talbot. I told them, that it would not answer to have a Calvinist to lead our people. Then said he, I will go out of society. I said, Very well: and I crossed out his name, and put in another, that was settled in our doctrine—I pressed sanctification on them, and the spirit of God came upon one woman, so that she trembled every joint in her

body, and soon lost the use of speech, and continued so for some time.

I desired the people to look to themselves, for they now saw, with their bodily eyes, how God was at work: They stood amazed; meanwhile the power of the Lord struck a baptist woman to the floor, and when she came to, she exhorted the people to believe, for, said she, I am as happy as I can live. When the methodist woman came to, she said, God had sanctified her soul. We had a blessed time, and I was happy in my soul.

Next day, I met brother Garrettson at brother B's on Fish-kill mountain, and held a love-feast: brother G. opened it; and after handing about the bread and water, the people spoke feelingly of God's dealing with their souls, and we had a melting time with them—after love-feast brother G. preached and I exhorted. When I came to this circuit, there were but few that knew the Lord, and when I left it, I think there were about one hundred that had found peace in Him, of whom Moses and the prophets wrote. We had nine in this place, when I came on the circuit, and we now had forty added. I took one hundred into society on the circuit. We had many precious times here. One day we had two baptist preachers present, and I preached up holiness, and the Lord attended the word with mighty power, and we had a glorious time. One of the preachers told me, that I had given them, and all the people to the devil, by preaching up holiness, and freedom from sin: for, said he, I sin every day. I then reasoned the matter with him, and said, If you are a preacher of God, let us unite and preach down sin, wherever we find it. for St. John says, *He that committeth sin is of the devil;* and what will you make of that? *By this time*, a large number was gathered about

us. I told him that the *will* was one of the greatest faculties of the human soul. Now, said I, let me see you put your hand to your head without the approbation of your will; or any one of you, either sit down or rise up without the approbation of your will: a baptist young man said it could not be done, but his wife said it could; he desired her to do something without the consent of her will: but she confessed she could not. The baptist preacher said, he had learned something that he never knew before. We parted in good friendship, but the old preacher staid, and spent the evening very friendly: I trust he was a well-wisher to the cause of God.

Next morning, I went with brother Garrettson, to New-Rochelle quarterly meeting, where I preached from, *Whom he did predestinate, them he also called, &c.* Several exhortations were given, and we had a peaceable waiting upon the Lord. Next morning, brother Garrettson opened the love-feast, and many spoke feelingly of the dealings of God to their souls; after love-feast one preached, and several gave exhortations, and we had a peaceable waiting on the Lord. That evening, there came as many as twelve to me, and said, that they wanted clean hearts: Well, said I, if this is your desire, I have no doubt but you will receive the blessing before you leave the house. I began to tell them what the Lord was doing, and what I had seen of his work through the land, and exhorted them to let every breath be prayer, as if it were the last; and then gave out a hymn and went to prayer, and four of the men fell to the floor, and struggled about as long as they would have done if their heads had been cut off: this frightened the women, who thought they never would come to; but I told them there was no danger, and ex-

horted them to be engaged with God for the blessing, and that I had no doubt but that he would sanctify them before they arose from the floor. They lay near one hour, and then one of them turned himself and began to praise God, who had sanctified his soul and body; and then another, and so on, till they all four professed sanctification; then shouted and praised God for what he had done for them. I exhorted the remaining eight to be much engaged, and the Lord would sanctify them also; they wept much, but did not receive the blessing. There was a girl, about twelve or thirteen years old, that was struck down when the men were; but no notice had been taken of her; afterwards I called for a light to see where she was, and when we found her, she was laying in the corner of the house like a dead person. I told them to let her alone, and the Lord would justify her soul. She lay about three hours, and when she came to, she said, the Lord had pardoned her sins, and she had such a peace in her soul, that she never felt before. We then all joined in singing and prayer, and then parted, it being about twelve o'clock at night. In the morning, one of the women that had sat by, the evening before, and seen her husband sanctified, was determined to have the blessing or die. She afterwards told me, that she eat no breakfast, but retired to her chamber, and wrestled with God until near night, when the power of the Lord came upon her, and struck her down, but how long she lay, she could not tell; but she knew that the Lord had sanctified her soul.

I went on to my next appointment, where I preached to a large congregation; for the alarm had spread far and wide. When I came to my application, the power of the Lord came down, *and about* a dozen fell to the floor, and there

was weeping and shouting, and praising God all through the house. Some were justified, some sanctified, and others seemed lost in the ocean of redeeming love. One of our brethren, that day received the witness or testimony of the Spirit, who was sanctified some days before, but had been afraid to own it, for want of a clearer manifestation.

Next morning, I went to my appointment, where I was to have a watch-night that evening: abundance of people were gathered. I preached, and three or four gave a word of exhortation: several cried out. When the meeting broke up, a young woman, the daughter of one Quimby, a quaker, came to me, and requested me to preach at her father's; for she had dreamed the night before, that if I would preach there, the Lord would sanctify her soul. I told her to have an appointment made for the next day. Accordingly I went and preached, and we had a precious time. After dismissing the people, I called the members of class together, and while exhorting of them to sanctification, the hand of the Lord came upon the young woman, and likewise on her mother, but not so powerfully as on the daughter; however, the young woman continued screaming and screeching, and crying for purity of heart, until the old friend, her father, grew impatient, and came into the room where we were, and said, "The Lord is not in the earthquake, nor in the whirlwind, but in the still small voice:" I replied, Do you know what the earthquake means? It is the mighty powerful thunders of God's voice from Mount Sinai; it is the divine law to drive us to Christ; and the whirlwind is the mighty power of conviction, like the rushing of a mighty wind, tearing away every false hope, and stripping us of every plea; but, "Give me

Christ, or else I die." With that he left us. When his daughter came to, she professed sanctification: then she enjoyed the Lord in the still small voice. The mother seemed to believe, and not believe: one minute, saying she did, and in another, unbelief coming in and telling her it was not possible the Lord should do so much for her, she again doubted.

Next morning, I went on to another appointment, at brother Lyon's. I took my text and preached, and the power of the Lord was felt amongst us by many; brother Lyon's daughter, and another young woman, were both struck down to the floor.

While I stood looking on, one of them appeared to have a degree of glory in her countenance, and lest my eyes should deceive me, I asked a man by me, if ever he saw any mortal face shine like hers: he said he never did. Many that had run away from the meeting, swore that they would do terrible things to me; however, I escaped for that time, thanks be to God.

Next day I went to my appointment, and had a pretty large congregation; for they never had seen any thing like this, and, probably, curiosity brought many. I preached with life and power; and one of our local preachers, caught of the Spirit, and went on, Jehu-like, and did me much service. There were three or four justified, and one sanctified, and the saints were built up in the most holy faith. One woman fell on the hearth in great extremity of soul. I met the class, and the dear people spoke very feelingly, and no harm was done to us by the wicked.

I then went to my next appointment, where I was threatened hard by the children of the devil, what they would do, if there were such a work as *at the first* meeting; but this far exceeded the

former; one woman fell to the floor, and cried out, "I see the Lord Jesus in his beauty! (repeating it, I believe, twenty times) but not with these bodily eyes, but with the eye of faith!" An old man also fell in one corner of the house, and made a great uproar. A soldier, who stood at the door, wept bitterly. Here I expected harm would be done; but there was none, to my knowledge. After public meeting, I met the class, and all was well.

I went to my appointment next day, where I found many assembled. I preached, and God attended the word with power. Here a lawyer was convinced of the reality of religion, and we had a good meeting. In the evening many came to see me, and to talk about religion. I told them what I had seen in various parts of the Lord's vineyard.

Next morning I rode to another appointment; the congregation consisted chiefly of dead, irreligious church people. I saw but little fruit of the Spirit among them; though I was enabled to preach the plan of salvation, and to give them gospel warning.

I went to my next appointment, on the borders of Connecticut, and preached to a cunning, hard-hearted people, and stiff-necked predestinarians. I met the class, which was very small in this place.

Next day, I had a crowded house, and four or five preachers were present: I preached, and several of them exhorted; the woman of the house said, she expected we were going to storm hell. Some cried out under sore distress.

Next day I met brother G. In the middle of my discourse, the Lord preached from heaven: some cried aloud, and some fell to the floor. Two professed that God had pardoned all their sins. Here I fell in with a man, the greatest scripturian

that I had ever seen. He told me that he had offered to engage, for a certain consideration, to get the Scripture by heart in one year: and if he failed, he would forfeit double the consideration. Brother G. went on, till he got to general Courtland's: and I went to the widow Smith's and preached—met class, and had a comfortable time. Here I met with Catharine Van Wyck, an Israelite, in whom, I believe, there was no guile: she professed holiness, and I believe she enjoyed it.

Next morning, I set out for my circuit—went to my appointment, and found a considerable number gathered. Here were a good many baptists, but God worked and many cried out. I met the class, and had a melting time among the little few that waited on the Lord. Several baptists made intercession for me to preach in their neighbourhood, about one mile and a half distant. I had a meeting appointed and preached there, and, I trust, the word did not fall to the ground; but that good seed was sown in that place.

I went next day to another appointment, preached, met the class, and had a good time. The people gave great attention. I then went to Salisbury, and preached to a large congregation. There, some dear old white-headed men, whose silvered locks were in full bloom for the grave, cried as if they had been whipped. Indeed, the word is a rod of correction. One young man was so powerfully wrought upon, that he came to me to know the reason: for, said he, I have heard that text preached from many times, but it never had such an effect on me before. I told him, the eternal God was at work with him, and now was the time to make an application to the Lord, that he might *bless him*. Here the woman of the house, w

the most uncommon, cunning, religious person, that I had met with. We had a good time in class.

At my next appointment, I preached to a small congregation in a baptist settlement. Here a predestinarian preacher attended, and seemed very friendly; but after meeting the class, I enquired into his character, and they informed me that he lived about half a mile from that place, that he had two wives, one an old woman, and the other a young one; the old one lived about a mile and a half from him, and the young one with him. Well said I, do you call him a good preacher? they said yes, they thought he was; I told them that he was a preacher for the devil, and an heir of damnation; and I warned the methodists against hearing him, at the peril of their souls.

I went next day to my appointment, preached in the evening to about five hundred people, and among them were two ministers; several were cut to the heart, and thirteen or fourteen came to join society; we took them in, and spake as kindly to them as we could, they being only young in the way.

At my next appointment, I preached to a crowded house. Here was a baptist preacher, who invited me to dine with him; I met the class, and had a precious time; then I went home with the minister, who used me kindly.

Next morning, I went early to my following appointment, having a good way to ride; when I came there, I found that Mr. Steel, a presbyterian preacher, had appointed a meeting at the next house, a little way off, at the same hour; I told the man of the house, it was not worth my while to pretend to preach, the people being chiefly presbyterians, and but three or four methodists. Accordingly we went to hear him;

his text was, *Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.* In the first place, he invited and commanded them all to believe; under the second head, he told them who it was that might ask; and said, it was believers, God's chosen people; under the third head, he spoke comfortable words to God's people, and so concluded. After he had done, I stepped up to him and said, How do you do, Mr. Steel? Said he, "I do not know you." I told him I was a preacher. "I hope," said he, "you preach the truth." I told him, I should begin in about fifteen minutes. I suppose I had about five times as many to hear me, as I should have had, if it had not been for his preaching; for the whole congregation, and himself with them, came to hear me. I took for my text, the words of Pilate to our Saviour, *What is truth?* This text Mr. Steel had given me, by saying, "I hope you preach the truth." If ever I preached with the Spirit, I did at that time. The people cried out, and Mr. Steel seemed exceedingly uneasy, and would walk to the fire, and then back again; then another would cry out, and he would scratch or rub his head, like a man confused and perplexed. I dismissed the people, met the class, and had a peaceable waiting before the Lord.

I next went to esquire King's, on Mount Washington, and preached to a fine congregation, considering the place, and we had a precious time. In class, a young man prayed very powerfully, and in such a manner, that I concluded, in my mind, he would be a preacher; and so it proved, for he shortly after set out in the work.

The next day, I went from the mount to another appointment, where I found the man a *friend to* methodism, but the woman an enemy.

The people came out, and I preached to them; they appeared to be a hard-hearted, stiff-necked set.

My next appointment was at brother Wager's, where I preached to a large congregation. We had a powerful time, some cried aloud for mercy, and others shouted praises to God for redeeming love. I met the class, which was large. Here I found a precious, loving people, and had a powerful melting time among them.

I went, next day, to captain Salbury's, where I had a pretty little congregation, who gave good attention to the word spoken. Some wept, some sighed, and others groaned. I met the class, and found some precious souls, happy in their God.

I went next to doctor Hamilton's, and preached to an attentive congregation. I met the class, and had a melting time.

My next appointment, being in Albany, and the river being so full of ice, I was informed that I could not cross, so I went home with a friend. In the morning, there was made a great roaring fire, just before we went to prayer; and a young man, that stood on the hearth, after we had sung and kneeled down, began to totter, and at last fell into the blazing fire: our friend, seeing him fall, sprang and pulled him instantly out again. After prayer, I asked him if he was subject to fits; he said, No: I asked him if his soul was converted to God. He said, he did not know that it was. I then told him, that I knew it was not; and besought him to call upon God to have mercy on him, adding, that he might be exceedingly thankful he was out of hell. It was owing, providentially, to that man's pulling him out of the fire, or he would have been beyond the reach of mercy. His body would have burned to death, and what would have become of his soul?

Next day, I went to my appointment, where I had a tolerable congregation; but a mixed multitude of presbyterians, baptists, and methodists. I preached, and had a peaceable waiting upon God; but I cannot say that much good was done. I also met the little class.

Next day, my appointment was at a tavern—I saw the people frequently running in and out of the bar room, and I soon discovered that this was no place to win souls—I told them, that I would preach there no more. One of our friends gave leave for preaching at his house. I met the little class up stairs.

I set out for my next appointment; I had been previously informed, that I was going to a nest of hornets. When I arrived at the place, I found a large congregation gathered, and I preached from the *clay and the potter*. I discovered while I was speaking, that several sat as on nettles and thorns: however I went on and finished my discourse, and immediately was attacked by some of them. They asked me if the meeting was over—I told them yes. Then about half a dozen began to dispute; for in my explaining the text, I tore old Calvin up, from the very bottom. We continued our dispute from the time that meeting broke up until about eleven o'clock at night. I told them to speak only one at a time, and they would last the longer—one of them asked me what I would do with this text, *Whom he did foreknow*, &c. I told him to spread it far and wide, that, on that day four weeks, I would preach from those very words. At the time appointed, hundreds came together, and I preached from the words. They were exceedingly attentive, and listened with all the powers they had. After I had concluded, and dismissed them, they said, if I had beat *them in argument*, I had not in judgment. In

a short time afterward, about thirty joined society, and talked of building a meeting-house.

I went down to captain S——'s, and told him that if he could get a place in a certain town, about two miles distance, that I would preach there. He asked me, if I would preach in the presbyterian meeting-house, if he could get it: I told him, Yes. He got his horse and rode to the minister, and asked him if he were willing to let a pious old man preach in his meeting-house, as he was just going to leave the parts. He said, he was, if the elders were; he then went to them, and obtained their consent. Accordingly I preached, and the people gave great attention. After preaching, I told them that, if they were willing, I would preach there again on the Monday following, on predestination, as it was a spare day with me. Accordingly, I preached at the time appointed, from, *Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate*, &c. The preacher came, with his pen, ink, and paper, and sat behind me in the pulpit, and began to write; but in a few minutes got lost and confused, and laid aside his pen and ink. I went on and finished my discourse; the people gave great attention, and I saw some weeping in the galleries—after I had done, the preacher rose up and said, "This fellow has had my pulpit two days;" then said to me, "I want to know if you hold to the fall of man?" I answered, I appeal to this people, if ever it were preached fuller from this pulpit, than I have this day preached it. He then asked me, if I held with the main heads of the Westminster confession of faith. I told him, No. He then got out his articles, and began to read them; but the greater part of the people followed me out of the house.

The Saturday and Sunday following, we held our quarterly meeting at brother Wager's. On Saturday one of the preachers preached, and there were several exhortations; we had a melting, precious time among the people of God. Sunday, we had a good many friends at love-feast, considering it was a new circuit; and after handing the bread and water about, there were two or three prayed, and brother Garrettson set the friends to speaking their experiences, and many spoke feelingly. I arose, and claimed the promises, that God would sanctify his people, and besought every person to be engaged for the blessing, and to take no denial, but have it to-day; and the power of the Lord came down, first on brother S——'s daughter, then on his wife, then on a black woman belonging to the house; there were three sanctified in a short time, and we had a most blessed, precious, powerful time in waiting on the Lord.

We now set out for conference, which was to be held in the city of New-York. We had several love-feasts as we passed along, and when we came to the city, we met, and joined with our brethren there. Our conference went on from day to day in brotherly love and unity; there was preaching by one or another every night. I was sitting one day in the kitchen, where I put up, smoaking my pipe, being tired of confinement in conference so long, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon me in a miraculous powerful manner, so that I was fully convinced, that something great would be done at the conference. Next day, bishop Asbury opened the love-feast; then brother Whatcoat spoke; and when he had done, I arose, and told them my experience: the people gave great attention, and when I came to the account of my sanctification, *down dropped* one of the preachers, and did not

rise until the Lord sanctified his soul. I then claimed the promises, and in a moment, the house was filled with cries, and screeches, and wonderful shouts! Several went among the people, to those whom they found in distress, to admonish, exhort and pray with them. Afterwards, six told me, that God had sanctified them; and I think, seven, that God had justified them. Three had to be carried home that evening, who were not able to go of themselves.

After conference, I went to my appointment in Newburg circuit; I called at a presbyterian elder's and preached in his house, and held a love-feast at a tavern, where we had a very powerful time: four or five were sanctified and three or four justified.

Next, I went to Field Burress's, a place where there never had been preaching; here God laid to his helping hand, several cried aloud for mercy, while the sinners outside, roved round the house like wolves; after they were a little pacified, I dismissed the people.

Next day, I went on to my appointment, where I found a clever little congregation, and one of the most happy old men that I had ever seen. I preached to the people, and had as happy a meeting as I ever had; for if the Lord had not withheld his hand, I could not have preached. After preaching, I met the class, and one half of them lay on the floor; the sinners around looked like death, and I exhorted them to fly to Christ; telling them that they need not say, Who shall ascend into heaven to bring him down? or who shall descend into the deep to bring him up? for if they would not believe this, they would not believe if he were to appear in a flaming fiery bush, as he did to Moses. Every time I preached in this place, we

had a shout in the camp, One day, an old baptist man said, You have stripped me of every principle I had, and what do you advise me to do? Daddy, said I, it is never too late to turn from bad to good; he said, If you would always stay on the cirtuit, I would join with you; That, said I, is a trick of the devil, you will always have as good preachers as I; Well, said he, set my name down; and he desired to have a day of fasting and prayer, and they appointed the Friday following. When I came round again, they told me that it was the greatest day they had ever seen, that the slain lay for hours on the floor.

I went on to my next appointment, and preached; the power of the Lord was present to heal; some professed sanctification, and some justification, and many others wept. I met class, and several joined society, and among the rest an old presbyterian, that had been a steady attendant, and nobody thought he ever would join us. I examined him closely as to his experience, and finding that he held our principles, I advised the class to have him for their leader, as they had no suitable person among them for that station; so he was put in leader.

Next day, being excessively cold, I had to ride twelve miles to my appointment, where I found a clever little congregation, and a baptist preacher with them. I warmed myself, and then preached from these words, *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* While I was speaking, the minister appeared to be quite in an agony, he was so angry; notwithstanding, God blessed many of the people. When I concluded, the minister arose and asked me if the meeting was ended. I said yes. He then said, As a servant of Jesus Christ, I cannot but contradict, what has been spoken

It is true, the words of your text are Christ's, but there is no such thing in this life, as a purity of heart; for we cannot live, in this life, without committing sin—and you spoke, as though a man made himself pure in heart. I said, I appeal to this people, in what way and manner I preached. First, I shewed that no man by nature was pure in heart; I then shewed, that a man was justified by an act of free grace; and afterwards that he was made pure in heart, by the Holy Ghost given unto him. Now, if you are a minister of Jesus Christ, preach down sin to hell from whence it came, and preach up holiness of heart. I then went into the other room, and called the class, and we had a precious time among the dear people. I found that they did believe, that it was their privilege, to be made pure in heart.

I went next day to my appointment, and preaching not being until candle-light, and a quaker meeting being in sight, I thought I would go to quaker meeting. There were two girls and two men spoke; one of the young men I thought spoke feelingly; but as for the others, there was no religion in what they said, that I could perceive. At last an old man got up, and leaning on the top of his cane, said, "We are too apt to be running after the *Lo-heres and Lo-theres*," and so went on with such like strange talk. When their meeting broke up, I took an opportunity to speak with the young man, and asked him, why he broke off so soon, for I knew there was more where that came from. Said he, I will come and see thee in the evening; I thanked him, and told him I should be glad to have some discourse with him—so went to my appointment, and in the evening preached, and had a peaceable waiting upon God. In my discourse I told the people, that the scriptures were

the standard, and if our experience did not come up to that, it was not genuine: therefore we must try ourselves by the touch-stone of truth. One young quaker, after the people were chiefly gone out, said, Did I understand thee? Why? said I. Did not I hear thee (said he) say that the scriptures were the word of God? Why, said I, no body denies that. Yes, said he, I do, and defy thee to prove it. I then began with John—*In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God, &c.* Now, said I, my dear, is not this the word of God. He could not deny it; but said he, We, as a people, deny the bible being the word of God. Next morning, an old preacher came to see me, and I said to him, one of your young men surprised me last night; How so? said he; Why, said I, he said, you as a people, denied the bible to be the word of God—and St. Paul says, *all scripture is given by inspiration of God, &c.* The old man looked confused, Why, says he, we believe the scriptures to be the declarative word of God.

I went to my next appointment, and preached to the people: we had a precious, melting season; I met the class, and we had a comfortable time among the dear people of God.

I went to my appointment at brother I. Ellison's, near New-Windsor. This man has built us a preaching house at his own expence, and a pretty little one it is. He took me into a back room, and said, If you go on, as people say you do, you will drive all the people away, for which I should be sorry; for I have a great regard for your society, and have built you a preaching house." I told him, we must leave the event to God; but he seemed very uneasy. I still told him, that we would leave the matter with God. There were in class, at that time, not above ten

persons, and before I left the circuit, there were above forty. Here something happened one evening very uncommon; as brother Brush was preaching, the candles on a sudden became dim, and they gradually grew dimmer, until they went entirely out. This was interpreted many ways, as though it were an omen of some strange event. However, it might readily be accounted for, from natural causes: the room being so exceedingly close, with the doors and windows shut, that a sufficient quantity of air could not come in. The perspiration and breath of the people, together with the burning of the candles, producing so great a dampness or contamination of the air, as to destroy or deaden the flammability; and consequently, the candles might be thus extinguished.

I had told the people, that I would preach on predestination; a great number gathered, and I preached accordingly: many were stripped of calvinism, and two joined society; one of them became a great advocate for our cause. Here we held our quarterly meeting, and we had a large congregation. In the love-feast, after handing the bread and water about, the people spoke the clearest of justification and sanctification, in point of distinction between them, of any I had heard in those parts. About thirty had professed sanctification, from the time I went on the circuit till then.

Here, brother Anthony Turk found the blessing. At this meeting, about six or seven were sanctified, and as many justified.* The hour of preaching coming on, the preaching room could by no means contain the people, we therefore, had to retire to a large barn. Brother Brush,

* The transcriber has been informed, from good authority, since the death of Mr. Abbott, that sixteen souls were that day sanctified, instead of six or seven; and a much larger number justified.

preached, and after him an exhortation was given. After meeting, I went to an appointment at Newburg town, and preached to a pretty large congregation, chiefly presbyterians, I met class, and found them very lively and happy in the way of salvation.

Next morning, I went on to my appointment, at S. Fowler's; he is a precious man, and his wife is a daughter of Abraham. I preached from Rev. v. 1—5. and the Lord attended the word with great power; many cried out, and fell to the floor; and several, when they came to, professed that God had sanctified their souls. One woman, lost the use of her limbs for three days; her husband wept much, thinking he had lost his wife; however, at the end of three days, she came to, and was as happy as she could live in the body. At this place, we hardly ever failed having a powerful time of the out-pouring of the spirit of God. The following day I preached at my next appointment: some cried aloud, and some fell to the floor, and others fled for fear. We had a most powerful time, and two joined society. Next morning, an old Irish woman came to me, being convinced of her backslidings, to know what she should do to be saved; for, said she, I knew the Lord to be precious to my soul about fifteen years, but in coming from Ireland, I sinned, and lost it; and from that time, I have never had one ray of divine love, although twenty-five years since. I said, You are out of hell! Call upon the Lord to have mercy on you! After exhorting her, she went away; the next news that I heard of her, she was in black despair, and so continued. I went to see her, and prayed with her, but all to no purpose: she departed this life in about three months after.

I preached in the evening, and we had a precious, melting time; the woman of the house said, she never had seen such a time before: I spoke from these words, *Buy the truth, and sell it not.*

I went next morning to another appointment, with the man of the house and his wife; they had been old moravians—I preached to the people, and God attended the word with power; some cried, some shouted, and others fell upon the floor. Upon the whole, we had a wonderful shout in the camp: some opposers got very angry and ran away. I met class, and we had a heavenly time; here the old moravian man and woman both got very much tried. She told the people that she hoped the Lord would give me to see my error before I died; but, blessed be the Lord, he gave them to see their error before I came round again.

I went to my next appointment, and had a small congregation, in a baptist settlement, where some fruit appeared. I met the class, which was small, but they were a precious people.

Next day I went to another appointment and preached; some cried for mercy. I met class, and had a happy time.

Next day I preached, and the Lord gave me great liberty; many cried aloud. In the class I found a precious people.

Next day, my appointment was at brother Dayton's, where the meeting house was built by the baptists and methodists: each were to take their turns; but the baptist preacher got angry, and said he would not preach there any more, if the methodists did. I preached, the people seemed very attentive, and much tendered—I met the class, which was large, and we had a precious time. A small dispute arose

here; a young woman had married out of society, and I told her to come forward and answer the charge; and she said, that she thought we would not turn her out of society, for marrying a member of another church—I told her no, if he were a regular approved member of another church. She said he was a member of the quaker society, and so the matter ended. I then went through the class, many spoke feelingly, and some that had lately received large manifestations of the grace of God, seemed altogether lost in the ocean of love.

I went to my next appointment, and before the people gathered, I was telling some present, what had happened in my travels; and that I had once taken a man by the hand, and said, *God out of Christ is a consuming fire*, which fastened upon him so that after he went home, and was in bed, in the night, he arose from his bed, expecting every moment to be damned, as he was out of Christ; however he never gave over struggling and praying till God blessed his soul. While I was telling this, a young woman came in, and it fastened on her heart so, that she went home immediately in sore distress of soul. I preached to the people, and after dismissing them, met the class; we had a very precious melting time, and many of them spoke very feelingly of the dealings of God to their souls. After dismissing the class, the man of the house, said to me, Let us go and see the girl that went away before preaching: We went, and found the house full of people; I preached to them, and many hearts were tendered, for the Spirit of God attended the word. After meeting, I was invited to stay all night, which I consented to—I laid in the same room where the old people were, and in the dead hour of the night, I heard the old woman cry out, Hannah! Hannah!—I

listened, and soon heard the voice of prayer in another room. I said, Mammy, let her alone, she will do well enough; for she was praying to God for mercy. However, the old woman continued to call, and cry out, until the girls came running into the room, saying, Mammy, pray for us! Daddy pray for us! or we shall be damned this night! They arose from their beds, and began to pray. I suppose, the old man had never prayed before, since God made him. The old woman said, We must have the preacher up; but by that time, I was half dressed. I went to prayer, and believe the girls would have found peace that night, but I had no one to help me; I prayed, until I was exhausted, However, the old man, his wife, three daughters, and two sons, were all brought in shortly after. Paul may plant, and Apollos water, but God giveth the increase. All glory be to him alone.

Next day, I went to my appointment at brother O——'s, and preached to a large congregation in the barn: God attended the word with power. One old presbyterian grew very angry, and said I ought to be kicked out of the place; an old woman stepped up to him, and said, I am a baptist, and you a bresbyterian, and if I ever heard the truth preached, I have heard it this day. I went to the house, but the old man seemed mad enough to injure me. Here we had made great improvement among the Germans; brother G——D——had got among them; we had a very comfortable waiting in class before God, and some joined society.

It was now time to repair to our quarterly meeting, which was held at brother Dayton's, Brother Brush preached on Saturday; afterwards some exhortations were given. On Sunday, in love-feast, after handing about the

bread and water, the people spoke feelingly, considering their inconvenient situation in a private house, with three or four rooms on a floor, and a great number in the place.

Here I will relate an occurrence, which I think is worth noticing. Brother Woolsey's son, Thomas, and two of his cousins with him, went to the barn, and there wrestled with God in fervent prayer some time; afterward came to the house, and the power of the Lord came upon them all three, in such a manner, that they fell to the floor, shouting and praising God, and they continued till almost day: God sanctified another man, while he lay in his bed, as he told me afterwards; also, Elijah and Chloe, son and daughter of brother Woolsey, received the blessing of sanctification: there were now five, in two families, that professed to enjoy that blessing. They set up prayer meeting, the people attended, and the Lord blessed them in it; ten, twelve, or fifteen have been justified in one meeting, and several were sanctified.

While I rode on that circuit, I took between eighty and ninety into society, and saw thirty souls sanctified; but I believe more than double that number were sanctified on the circuit, while I rode there. When I left it, the work was going on with as great rapidity as ever.

It may not be amiss, here to relate a narrative, that I had from a pious woman, concerning her brother. He was a young man, that had openly, and publicly espoused deistical principles, asserting that there was no place of future punishment, or in other words, no hell, his conduct corresponding with his principles; and being possessed of a very handsome estate, he soon wasted his constitution by intemperance: finding it decaying very fast, he was advised to

try the sea, in order to repair it again. Accordingly, he took a passage with an old pious presbyterian captain, that kept up prayer on board, and with whom he often disputed the point, asserting, that he did firmly believe, that there was no hell, or place of future punishment. However, they had not been long at sea, before the Lord sent down a mighty tempest, as he did on Jonah; all human probability of surviving was taken away; the captain perceiving their imminent danger, began to exhort them to prepare to meet God, when, to his great surprise, the first man that bawled out, was Mr. *No-Heller*. The captain, being a steady, firm man, turned to him, and said, What is the matter with you? I hope you are not afraid to die? I thought you told me, that you verily believed that there was *no hell*. Oh! said he, all bathed in tears, wringing his hands; it will do well enough to talk about on land, but it will not do for a storm at sea. However, it pleased God to spare them, and to bring them all safe home again, and he, finding his health a little recovered, began to be ashamed of his testimony at sea, and soon fell into his former excesses again, which brought on his old complaints: he was reduced to a sick bed, and all hopes being gone, as to his recovery—he began to seek God in earnest—and the Lord, in his infinite mercy, spoke peace to his soul. He continued happy in his love, exhorting them that came in his way, against all such diabolical principles. He departed this life in a transport of joy, and, I trust, rests where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary shall forever be at rest. Oh! that every deist, and unbeliever, were convinced that his principles will not do for a dying bed, or a judgment day! The most heroic infidels tremble at the approach of death!

I set out for conference, and came down to general Courtlandt's, where I preached, and the power of the Lord attended the word; many wept, and we had a precious time.

I went on, and overtook brother G. and we rode in company to New-York. In our conversation together, he asked me if I desired we might have such a meeting as we had there the last conference. I told him, I did, and that we might have a much greater. Why, said he, there were but a few individuals who liked it. Oh! how this struck me, that he, who was once so active in it, should now appear to be so much the reverse. However, I told him, that it was of God, and that I did desire to see a much greater work. But I soon discovered, that there would be nothing great done, there was such a division of sentiment among the preachers about the work. We had some love-feasts as we passed along; brother G. opened them, and many spoke their experiences. I observed, that on this journey, I was not called upon either to preach, pray, or exhort. However, this was no great cross to me, as I was much broken down, just coming off my circuit. We went into the city of New-York, and the next day, conference was opened: we went on very lovingly in the affairs of the church, from day to day, until it came to the appointment of our love-feast.—Then it was brought on the carpet, by brother R. Cloud, concerning the love-feast, at our last conference. He said that I hollowed, and bawled and cried Fire, Fire! and scared the people. Then brother G. got up, and seconded him, and opposed the work with all the powers he had. Brother J. Lee said he was happy in the love-feast. The bishop said, he did not want to hear them "hollow and shout and bawl;" but he

wanted to hear them speak their experiences. I said, Then, perhaps I had better not go to love-feast. I was not the least angry; but I was grieved in soul for the cause. Our appointment was up at the new meeting-house, and abundance of people gathered—The bishop opened the love-feast, and when the bread and water had gone round, and the people were at liberty to speak, not one spoke for some time. Then brother Garrettson got up and exhorted the people; and then brother Cloud exhorted them likewise; but all to no purpose—Among the several hundreds present, there were but a few that spoke. For my part, I kept silent under much depression of mind, not feeling much faith or liberty of spirit. After some exhortations, the meeting broke up. Many of the friends, afterward, told me they felt death in their souls, and came to me to know what was the matter. I told them simply, that brother Cloud had said, that there was no good done at the last conference-love-feast; but there were, to the best of my recollection, six who told me, that they were sanctified, and seven that they were justified, at that love-feast. Brother Morrel said that this last love-feast was the most dead and lifeless love-feast that ever had been in York before. I understood that the preachers, in discoursing together, acknowledged that they had been wrong in what they had done and said on the subject. Oh! how careful ought the preachers to be, how they censure or speak against a work, merely because there are some things attending of it, which are not exactly agreeable to their views or wishes. Great harm may be done by unguarded expressions or oppositions. We should learn to bear and forbear, and to make every necessary allowance.

I received my appointment on Long-Island, and accordingly took my station. The next day, I preached to a small congregation with life and power: the Lord attended the word with success; some young ladies, were cut to the heart, and one gentleman cried out for mercy, and before meeting ended he found peace and joined society.

Next day, I went to New-town. Here we had a preaching house, and a few people, but very dead. I preached to them, and saw but little fruit. I met the society, and exhorted them to get more religion, and urged them to seek sanctification. This, I believe, is the oldest methodist society on the island.

I then went to my appointment at Jamaica, a very wicked little town, and preached in the evening, in the Free-Masons lodge-room, a very convenient place. I spoke with freedom; but some of the children of the wicked one, being vexed, blew a conk-shell round the house while I was speaking. I met the little class, which was only three in number. I found that their eyes were in part opened, but they knew not God.

I went to my appointment, at a clever presbyterian's; his wife also was a clever woman; but they knew not God. I preached, and the Lord touched the heart of their daughter: she cried for mercy, and continued until God set her soul at liberty. I met class, and several spoke feelingly of the dealings of God to their souls.

Next day, I met class not far from Rockaway meeting-house, and had a middling time, considering the society had been on the decline for two years.

Next day, I preached to a large congregation, and there seemed to be some little move among *the people*; however, I hope to see better times.

I then went to an appointment at brother Raynor's, at Hampstead-South, where I preached with some degree of freedom; but cannot say with as much life and power as usual. After preaching, I met class, and had a tolerable waiting before God; some spoke feelingly of the things of God, and others were very tender.

I went next day, to a little town, called Jerusalem, (but not the city of the great king,) and preached to a small congregation of hard hearted sinners, and backsliders. After preaching, I met class, which consisted of about half a dozen; here it seemed to be dead work. I retired into a back room, and poured out my soul before God, for them. Then I went off of the Brush-plains, and preached to about a dozen; this was hard work. I dismissed the people, and met the class—here I found a dear old German and his wife.

Next morning, I went to my appointment at Z. Nail's, and preached to a small congregation: here I endeavoured to give old Calvinism a stroke. I tarried all night with brother Nail. There being no class here, I desired brother N. to give out preaching in two different places, against I came round again.

I went on to my appointment at Patchog, and had a clever congregation. Here was a meeting-house built for the use of every society—I took my text, *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves*, &c. 2 Cor. xiii. 5. I endeavoured to show the necessity of so doing, because many false teachers had gone out into the world, *teaching damnable heresies, denying the Lord that bought them.* A baptist preacher being present, he appeared to get very angry, and rose up, and contradicted me. I told him to sit down, and I would talk to him bye-

and-bye: he did so, but it was not long before he rose and contradicted me again. I desired him to sit down till I was done, for it was beneath a gentleman to act so; he then sat down and was quiet. I went on and finished my discourse and dismissed the people.—I then told him, that I was ready to hear him; he might now rise and clear up what he had said. He spoke: and after he had done, I endeavoured to clear up what I had said, and added, Tell all your neighbours, and those around you, that this day four weeks, I intend to preach a sermon on predestination. I then went home with Mr. S——, at Blue-Point: he was an advocate for religion, but a stiff antinomian.

Next morning, I went on to Mr. Leake's, a presbyterian, at Middle-Island, and preached to an attentive little congregation, who had very little religion among them. I asked Mr. Leeke, what sort of people I had to preach to next day; he told me, they were all calvinists, and in a baptist meeting-house. Said I, How long have our preachers preached there? About three or four years, said he. What, said I, and no converts? No, said he. This will never do, I shall not preach long there, said I, without some fruits.

I went, next day, to my appointment, at the baptist meeting-house. Here I found a clever congregation, to whom I preached. After meeting, a number came round me, and said that I had given them all to the devil. Given you all to the devil! Why, what sort of people are you, said I, that I should give you all to the devil? I give no Christians to the devil. I told them that *that* day four weeks I would preach a sermon on predestination.

I went to my appointment, at brother Brush's,

at Wene-Comack; there we had a preaching-house, and I preached to a large congregation, with much liberty. After preaching, I met the class, and found some souls happy in God. This is the oldest society we have on Long-Island, excepting the one at New-town.

Next day I went to my appointment, where I found a small congregation, and had a precious time both in preaching and in class.

Next day, I went to brother B——'s; some wept under the word. After preaching, I met the little class, and endeavoured to press them to seek after sanctification: but it seemed to them as an idle tale.

I went to my next appointment, where the power of God struck a baptist preacher's daughter, and she cried for mercy, and another young woman did the same. The preacher's daughter went home, saying, that I preached hell and damnation, and that there was no mercy for her. I told the people, it was not our doctrine at all, nor any thing like it: We preach free grace, and free mercy to penitent sinners. The other, after some prayers, found peace, and in class joined society; we had a precious time.

Next day I went on to another appointment, had a small congregation, and about fourteen or fifteen members of society. After preaching, I met class, they spoke very feelingly of the dealings of God with their souls. I then went to brother Cole's, and met class in the evening; there we had a powerful time, many spoke very feelingly, and we had a great meeting.

I went, next day, to the paper-mill, at Hampstead harbour, and preached with great freedom; God attended the word with power, and many wept. I met class, and had a very precious time.

Next day, I went to sister Searing's, (an old widow woman,) at Searing-town, and preached in the meeting-house, to a very attentive congregation, and met class; they spoke of the dealings of God to their souls, and I was happy in my own soul. Here Mr. G.'s daughter asked me to preach at her father's. I thanked her, and told her to have it given out in four weeks. I went on to my appointment at Jamaica, and preached with life and power; two women fell to the floor; the wicked sounded their horn round the house; however, this did not hinder our meeting—two were brought into covenant.

I went to Mr. C——'s, and preached to a wicked set, at candle-light; here I endeavoured to frustrate old Calvin. I then went home with the class-leader, found him to be a calvinist, and that he was very much disquieted and offended. From thence I went over to York, and told the Yorkers that he was no methodist, and that I would not preach there any more while he was in society. I then returned and went to the place where I began my circuit. Here, while I rode this time round the circuit, there were four or five added.

Next day, I went to New-town, where I found brother M'D. who had moved there from the Jerseys. I put him in class-leader over the black people. He held prayer-meeting from house to house, and a revival soon took place: though not without some opposition from the dead or luke-warm methodists. However, I told him to go on. Here, while I was preaching, God laid to his helping hand, and we had a shout in the camp; and the Lord laid his hand on an old negro man, who shook for about one hour, and then professed to have received the blessing of a pure heart: he

had been in the way of religion about thirty years.

I went to Jamaica, and brother Woolsey met me there. I had very strange feelings, and retired in secret. Brother W. retired also, and when he came back, I have, said he, strange feelings that I cannot account for, unless something great is to be done this evening. A certain gentleman's daughter, about seventeen or eighteen, a cripple, who had been brought there in a little waggon, also said, she had strange feelings, that she could not account for. I preached, and the people kept laughing and talking at a most wonderful wicked rate all the time. When I was done, I desired brother T. Woolsey to give an exhortation; but they talked and laughed louder than ever. I sat down, and besought God with all the faith I had for help; all at once, I felt my hair rise with the power of God—immediately I cried out, for God to strike them down to the floor! with that, they tumbled over the benches, and one over another, and ran and hurried out as fast as they could, and never stopped until they were out in the street. The next meeting we had there, the rumor having so spread, that we had all the grandees of the town, it was on a day, that they had been running their horses, and two horses had been killed, by running one against the other, and the riders had like to have shared the same fate; but in a few weeks they recovered. I preached to the people, and the mob threw stones and broke the windows—one stone weighed seven pounds, but it happened to hit the casement, and so hurt nobody. I advised brother Dudley to set a watch, and to endeavour to find the wicked unprincipled sinners out. It may be observed, that no one, possessing the principle of a man, will ever willingly

and deliberately disturb a religious society in its exercises of public or private worship. They are the beasts of the people, wanting of breeding, civility, and religion. May the Lord pity, and have mercy on them!

Next day, I was conversing with brother Dudley on the subject, and told him we were in a free country, and it would never do to be so served. While I was speaking, in came the sheriff, being very angry about the usage we had received, and said, he was going after the disturbers. He mounted his horse and off he went, and soon brought one of them before a justice of the peace, and he was fined five pounds. The others came and acknowledged their faults, and we forgave them; judging, that the fine of the first man might suffice for the present, as a warning to the others, and being in hopes, that as they were humbled, they would do so no more. Here, notwithstanding the malice of wicked men and devils, we formed a society of nine persons, who all professed faith in Christ, before I left the circuit.

I went on, to my appointment, at Rockaway, which was the time of our quarterly meeting. I preached on Saturday, and some others gave exhortations. Sunday morning, we opened our love-feast; and, after handing the bread and water about, many spoke very feelingly of the dealings of God to their souls. After love-feast, I preached, and the Lord laid to his helping hand, and sent the truth home to the hearts of the people, with the energy of his holy Spirit. Some fell to the floor; some ran for the door; some fell over the benches; some cried aloud for mercy, others were rejoicing in God their Redeemer, and a number lay about the floor under the operation of the mighty power of

God, as dead men and women. There being a quaker preacher present, when he saw many about to run off, he arose and exhorted the people not to go, nor be scared, adding, It is the power of God: The Lord is in this place! Blessed be the Lord, he has some witnesses for Jesus among them, and would to God there were more such. I continued to speak, until I was spent, and unable to speak any more; I then stepped out of the stand, and brother P. took my place, and in a short space, the people were quiet, and not one was to be heard, in all the congregation, crying to God for mercy. The enemies of truth then said, that Abbott had raised the devil, but P. had laid him again. After the exhortation, we concluded the meeting.

Monday, I went to my appointment, and preached to a hard-hearted people; but I had liberty in speaking, and hope some good seed was sown. After meeting, an African asked me if I would go to their meeting, which consisted of Indians and Africans, who professed themselves to be congregationers: I told him, I would; and accordingly brother N. and I went. The man, who had given me the invitation, told me that they knew nothing of our hymns, and requested me to tell them to sing their own, When we arrived at the place, we found them gathered; accordingly, I told them to sing their own hymns; they did so: and when they had done, I kneeled down to prayer, and some cried out, and others fell to the floor. When I arose, I gave an exhortation, and many fell to the floor; some cried aloud for mercy, and others clapped their hands for joy, shouting, Glory to God! so that the noise might have been heard afar off. I was as happy among

these Indians and Africans, as I could live in the body. God is no respecter of persons; but all those who fear him and work righteousness, of every nation are accepted of him. This meeting continued for some hours; at length, the Lord in a measure withdrew his Spirit, and so we parted.

I went, next day, to S. Abbott's; a number, both of Africans and Indians that I had seen the day before, at their own meeting, attended. I preached, and the Lord attended the word with power; some of the whites cried out, and many of the coloured people did likewise. After preaching, I gave them an invitation to stay in class: they did so: after speaking to the whites, I spoke to them, and many of them testified clearly of the gracious dealings of God with their souls. This was a new place, where preaching had never been before I came to the circuit: now I had thirteen joined in class, and the most of them professed faith.

Here something strange turned up, which I will relate. A next door neighbour was deranged in her understanding; which was occasioned, as it was thought, by an Indian girl, who belonged to her, hanging herself: the woman thought that it was her ill-usage to the girl that made her hang herself: this so affected her, that she lost her reason: and now, her friends were obliged to watch her continually, for fear she should put an end to her existence, in the same manner that the girl had done. I went to see her, and strove to encourage her to a composure of mind, by applying the promises of the gospel; but I fear to little purpose. How careful ought those to be, under whose care other people's children are placed, to use them well, and bring them up in the fear of the Lord, lest

they rise up in judgment against them, in the great day of accounts.

There came to me an old Indian woman, who told me she had been under sore distress of soul: and, said she, "I went into the woods and prayed, on my knees, to God, that if he would have mercy on a poor Indian, to give me a sign; and after some time, I fell on my face, and prayed on, and I saw something like a sun settle down close by me: I prayed on, and saw something like one sun more come: I prayed on, and there came something like another sun, and then there were three great lights, like suns. I still prayed on, poor Indian prayed on for a sign, and all the suns went away: and then I thought I saw so clear, that I could see to the end of the world: and then there came such a light and glory, that I felt it all through my body and soul, and it filled me with joy, and love, and peace. Now, do you think that poor Indian is converted?" I said, Yes, and exhorted her to be obedient and faithful, and told her that God would do greater things for her yet. She appeared to have faith in Christ. I felt very happy, while she related this to me.

Next day, I went to Patchog: and though it was the height of harvest, as I had promised to preach on predestination, it brought the people together, without regard to business. I preached according to promise, and we had a melting time, and some cried out. When I had done preaching, I read the rules of society, and made such observations on our discipline, as I thought necessary; and then desired as many as believed the doctrine that I had delivered, to follow me to the house: about fifty or sixty did so, and fourteen joined society. Our preachers had preached at that place, most part of the time, for near four years, without being able to form

a society. I went home with my old antinomian friend, Mr. S——, who told me, that after all their cavils and disputes, on what they had heard on predestination, that it generally had been acknowledged by them, that it was the truth. In that place, the people had meetings among themselves, for twenty-three evenings; and it was judged, by some, that there were one hundred and fifty souls converted to God; but this I leave to the day of eternity.

Here I met with Ruth Jones: she had, I think, the best memory of any woman that I ever had met with in all my travels. She had joined society, was a great Scripturian, and a strong advocate for the truth.

I went to my next appointment, where I found three baptist preachers, and one presbyterian preacher. I was under great exercise, it being in a baptist meeting-house; however, I concluded I would preach the truth, as it was in Christ, and leave the event to God. I went in, and after singing and prayer, I gave out these words, *The gifts and calling of God, are without repentance.* I had great liberty in preaching, and saw some fruits of the Spirit among the people: but I observed an uneasiness among the preachers. After I had done, I asked the baptist preachers, severally, if they would sing and pray; but they all refused: I then asked the presbyterian, and he replied, I will join you: so I sang and prayed, and then dismissed the people. One of the baptist preachers, Mr. C. said, in fifteen minutes I shall begin, and asked me to stay and hear him. I told him that I could not, as I had twenty miles to ride; and so left them. Mr. Lake informed me, that after I was gone, he preached predestination on the highest key; and that as soon as he had done, the people arose, and universally testified their

abhorrence to the doctrine; and one man said, Mr. C. your preaching is an abomination: I know it to be so in my family: for my children are now men and women grown, and if I reprove them for sin, let it be what it will, their reply is, It was so ordained, and if we are to be saved, we shall be, do what we will; and if we are not to be saved, it is in vain to try; we can do nothing.

At my next appointment, I found the people gathered, and among them, a Mr. H——, a presbyterian minister: I sang, prayed, and took my text, and felt great liberty in speaking; the power of the Lord arrested one sinner, so that she cried out for mercy. After I had done preaching, and before I had time to dismiss the people, Mr. H. arose, and said, Is this meeting done? I said, Yes; with that, he said—You are an old deceiver, you have preached false doctrine, and you are a liar: for you have preached, that a man may live without sin; but I say, no man can; and he that says he is without sin, deceives himself, and is a liar. I let him go on, while I was folding down several leaves of scripture, on sundry texts, in order to support what I had advanced: when he had done, I arose; and at that instant, he sprang for the door, and hasted away: the man of the house went after him, near one hundred yards, saying, Come back, Mr. H. but all to no purpose; for he still went on, without paying the least regard to his being called. However, as soon as he was gone, an elder took up the matter, but soon found himself at a loss; but, in order to make the best of the business, one of his friends replied, Mr. S. is not prepared, at present, for argument—What then, said I, does he come here for? and why does he take the field of battle without arms. A man should always be armed, that means to

fight; and to begin a battle, without being prepared for the attack, discovers great folly. Another man standing by, who was intoxicated, said (clapping his hand upon his breast) I have that within me that cannot sin! I then replied, I smell a stink of liquor! Liquor! said he, I have not drunk one drop of rum to-day! but, said another by-stander, such a neighbour tapped a hogshead of cider to-day. So it appeared that he was quite drunk on cider, instead of rum, which is one and the same abomination in the sight of God. Yet, poor man, his principles led him to boast of something *within him* that could not sin; though he could get drunk. Can a man be an inward saint and an outward sinner? Can he serve God in his heart by faith, while he serves the devil *outwardly* in his life? Once a child of God, always such, do what they will? May the Lord pity all those, who are under such dangerous delusions! They soon were out of the door, disputing, until they gave each other the lie; and I was afraid there would be blood spilt among them, for one man swore that he would lose every drop in his body, for the doctrine that he had that day heard; but it ended in words without blows, for which I was thankful—I then left them, and went with Mr. W. who told me he had sitten twenty-five years under Mr. H—, and never knew before, what principles he held; but, said he, I am now done with him; and soon after he joined society. I went to his brother T. W—'s, where I tarried all night. I went next morning, to brother Hubb's. Next day was our quarterly-meeting, and a great many people came out; here I met brother Whatcoat and brother Morrell; one of them preached, and the other exhorted. Next day brother Whatcoat opened the love-feast; and after the bread and water were handed round, divers young converts

spoke very feelingly of the goodness of God, and his dealings with their souls: we had a precious time. There was a large congregation, and one of our brethren preached, and the other gave an exhortation: we had a solemn, and I trust, a profitable time to many souls.

I then set out for conference. While I travelled that circuit, I took between eighty and ninety members into society. May the Lord record their names in the Lamb's book of life, and save them in the day of eternity! Amen.

I attended York conference, where, I trust, the affairs of the church were settled in brotherly love. The bishop observed, that he never had heard so many speak of sanctification in this place before: may the Lord increase their number! I told the bishop that it had been about nine years since I was round the Salem circuit, to see my children in the gospel, and that I desired to go there: he replied, you may go, and ride there this winter. Accordingly, I set out for Philadelphia, on my way to my circuit; when I arrived in the city, the bishop told me that I must preach in the evening. Accordingly, I attended the church in Fourth-street; where, after singing, I kneeled and prayed, but did not attempt to take a text or preach; for, under prayer, the power of the Lord descended on the people in such a manner, that some fell to the floor under the operation thereof; the cry of mourners, and the joyful acclamations of the christians, were so great, that I could not be heard. Many cried aloud, and among them was brother Cann, one of our preachers, who was wonderfully overcome by the divine power; when he came to, he stepped into the desk, and publicly acknowledged, that he had ever been an enemy to people's crying aloud, or making such a noise in public worship;

but that he then could not help it himself; that he could no more refrain from crying aloud, than he could from dying, if God were to send the messenger of death, to arrest his body. Brother M'Claskey went through the house, among the mourners, praying for, and admonishing all that came in his way, and requested me to do the same; accordingly, I left the pulpit without attempting to preach, and followed his example. Our meeting continued until near eleven o'clock. No doubt that meeting is well remembered by many of our friends in Philadelphia—O may its good effects be seen in eternity. It was a gracious time to many souls; several professed justification, and some sanctification.

SALEM CIRCUIT.

After I left the city, I took my circuit at brother Clark's, about eleven miles above Salem, where I preached and the Lord attended the word with power; one sinner trembled, every joint in him, and I expected he would have fallen to the floor; but he fled out of the house, with trembling and astonishment. I met class, and had a precious time among my old friends.

I went to my next appointment, in Hains's neck, where I saw some fruits of the spirit, under the word. I met class, had a precious time.

On Sunday, I went to Penns-neck meeting-house, where I met with a large congregation, consisting of my old friends and children in the gospel. There the Lord manifested his presence amongst us, to the joy of many souls; for my own part, if the Lord had not withheld his hand, I could not have preached. In class, several were so lost in the ocean of love, that they could not speak: such a melting time, I had seldom seen.

In the afternoon, I preached at Salem, to a large congregation, and felt freedom, in delivering the word; I met class, and had a peaceable waiting before God.

I preached at brother S——'s, met class, and found they had grown cold in religion, and to the things of God. May the Spirit of the eternal God, stir them up to more diligence.

At the widow W——'s, I had a crowded house, and the Lord attended the word with power, and several appeared much affected. In class, I pressed sanctification, or holiness of heart, on them; we had a comfortable waiting, and our souls were refreshed with the love of God.

I went to brother Swing's and preached to a congregation, mostly presbyterians; and although I saw but little fruit, yet I felt a freedom in speaking, and hope it will not be altogether labour lost. In class, several spoke feelingly of the Lord's dealings with their souls.

I went to brother T——'s, who informed me, that they had not had a preacher for eighteen months, although they had a class of fifteen or sixteen members. We had a crowded house; I spoke with freedom, and the Lord was present among us, to the joy of many souls; In class, we had a melting time,

Next day, as the people had but little notice of my coming, I had a small congregation; however, I preached to them, and hope that some good was done: there we had no class. I lodged at Mrs. W——'s; and in the morning they set me over Morris river, and I went to the church, where I met a large congregation, to whom I preached; the Lord made bare his arm, and many, both saints and sinners, cried aloud. There I met many of my dear old friends, whom I had not seen, for about nine

years; divers of them were as happy as they could live. I remembered several of them, who had professed sanctification, when I was among them in years past: some had retained it; but others had, in a measure, lost the witness. Blessed be the Lord, for what he has done, and is still doing for the inhabitants at Morris-river. At brother Barlow William's. they had but little notice of my coming; however, I spoke to the few who were present, and met class; several spoke freely, and appeared in a measure happy.

Next day, at Mrs. H——'s, I spoke with great liberty; many wept, and some cried aloud. I met class, and we had a shout in the camp of Jesus; some fell on the floor; and one woman gave us an exhortation: It was a good day to many souls.

I went to brother Goff's, where we had a good time. I impressed sanctification on them, with all the power and ability that God had given me. There, I met with many of my old friends, and was happy to find that God had not only preserved them stedfast in the faith, but had added many to the church.

I went to esquire Cresey's, on Cape May; There, I found, they had been without a shepherd for about eighteen months. They had not much notice of my coming; however, I preached to the few who met. The members of society present, still professed faith, and spoke freely of the dealings of God with their souls; yet acknowledged great deadness for want of preaching.

I went to brother C—'s. I found, since I had been there last, that the universalians had made a great rent in the baptist church; several of them came out to hear me, and I felt much freedom, in declaring the truth of God unto them; though I saw but little or no fruit of the Spirit:

as we had no class, I dismissed the people. A baptist man tarried behind, and said to me, I do not know what to do; for my neighbours were formerly baptists, and a praying people; but, since they have turned universalians, I do not know one of them that is a praying person. I told him, that I could give him no better advice, than old Joshua's resolution, Let others do as they may, to be sure and serve God himself. We spent some time to satisfaction, in conversing on the things of God.

I preached in a baptist meeting-house, on the upper end of the cape, but did not feel that liberty in speaking which I generally had; owing, I believe, to a feeling sense of a spirit of contention among them. After preaching, the people began to dispute about the pews; one said, he had hired this, and another that pew; and that such and such should not sit in them. I told them, that I had nothing to do in the matter, for I was only on sufferance myself, and therefore, not a suitable person to interfere in, or to settle a matter of that nature. I met the class, and found them, likewise, all in confusion about a poor person, that was half Indian: and some of them, having more pride than religion, could not stoop to sit in class with him; and to cloke the matter a little, they had raised several objections against him, and without supporting any thing, insisted on my expelling him; which I refused to do, as there appeared a good testimony in his favour, and that he was of an orderly life and conversation: at which, two of them determined to withdraw from society, and desired me to cross their names off the class paper; I did so, and thus the matter ended.

I went to W. T——'s, and preached with liberty, to a small congregation. I met the class,

and there appeared but little life or power among them. I exhorted them to seek for more religion, and to press forward for sanctification.

At Tuckehoe meeting-house, I had a large congregation, to whom I preached with liberty; I met class, and we had a melting time; many spoke feelingly, and I pressed sanctification on them.

At my next appointment, I found a poor, but a blessed people; there the Lord laid to his helping hand, and attended the word with power; some cried out, some fell down, and others clapped their hands and shouted for joy: we had a shout of praises in the camp of Jesus. I met class, pressed them to seek sanctification, and was uncommonly joyful at seeing how happy those dear people were.

I then went to brother E. Budd's, where the Lord attended the word with power; many cried out and some fell to the floor. I met class, or rather attempted to meet it, for I had not spoken to above two or three, before the Lord met them in such power, that several fell to the floor, and we had the shout of a king in the camp—*And many shouted aloud for joy; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.* Ezra chap. iii. ver. 12, 13. This meeting continued from 11 o'clock, until night.

I then went to brother A——'s, in Deerfield, and preached in the evening to a hard-hearted set; however, I was enabled to declare the counsel of God, although I did not feel that freedom that I usually felt. Some testified of the goodness of God to their souls in class.

On Sunday, I preached with freedom in Broad-neck meeting-house; some wept. In the afternoon I went to Murphy's church, In *Pitt's*-grove, where I met a large congregation.

God attended the word with power, and we had a precious time in class.

Monday, I went to Malago, a new place, and preached; there I saw some fruit of the Spirit.

Next day, I went to brother C——'s, and preached to a clever congregation; the power of the Lord attended the word. I met the society, and had a precious time amongst them.

At Hain's-neck, we had a crowded house, and the Lord attended the truth with power; some fell on the floor; I met class, and several joined society.

I then went to brother Peddrick's, in lower Penn's-neck—There the Lord attended the word with the energy of his Spirit. several cried aloud for mercy. I met class, one sinner fell, under the power of God, to the floor. Several prayers were put up for him, and the Lord in his mercy, set his soul at liberty, whereby he was enabled to rejoice in redeeming love; Glory to the name of Christ.

On Sunday, I preached in Penn's-neck meeting house; there the Lord attended the word with power, and several cried out for mercy. After preaching, I invited the mourners to stay in class; they did so, and in class the Lord laid to his helping hand, and his power was present to the joy of many souls; several were set at liberty, to praise him as a sin-pardoning God; and one professed sanctification. It was a day that will never be forgotten, in time or eternity, by many souls—Here I met with friend I. Ffirth, who asked me, if I would preach in upper Penn's-neck, if he could procure a place, and give me notice. I told him, I would. Then we went on for Salem, in order to attend my afternoon appointment.

There I found a large congregation; but being rather late, by reason of our meeting continuing longer than usual in the neck, My son David was preaching to them, on the same text that I had spoken from in the morning: viz. *Quench not the Spirit.* After he had done, I gave an exhortation, and we had a peaceable waiting before God—I went on to my next appointment, where I had a clever congregation, and the Lord attended the word with power. Two fell to the floor, and we had a little shout in the camp of Jesus. I met class, and about twelve joined' and we had a precious time. After meeting, a young man said to me, Father Abbot, what shall I do? I have been in full stretch for sanctification; I have left nothing undone, that I could do; I have prayed almost all night, on my knees, for the blessing; and sometimes it appeared as if I were just going to receive it; but now, it seems farther from me, and as if I should never receive it at all, I said, I believe you are in the right way, and let us fervently pray for the blessing, and I believe that God will give it unto you before we rise. We kneeled down, and he soon fell on the floor, as one dead, under the mighty power of God; his blood appeared stagnated, and he lay some time in this state, while we were made partakers of divine blessings; when he came to, he praised God and testified that he had given him a clean heart. Brother S. invited him to tarry all night; but he said, that he would go home, and tell the Good news to his parents, and so set out: he had fifteen miles to walk. He was soon after this, called to the work of the Lord, and took the field as a travelling preacher.

At my next appointment, I found a crowded

house, to whom I preached, and the Lord attended the truth with the energy of his Spirit; several cried out, being cut to the heart, under a sense of their depraved and fallen state. In class, I impressed sanctification on them, and the power of the Lord fell on sister W. who, with several others, received this inestimable blessing. A presbyterian, hearing the cry of mourners, came to the door, and the power of the Lord reached his heart so, that he fell into the house, and was renewed in God's love in this meeting; he had known what religion was, previous to this, but then he got a fresh spring. He and his wife, both joined society. I spent the evening with Sister W. in great satisfaction, conversing on the the things of God.

Next day, I went to brother S——'s, at New-England-town, where I found a crowded house, chiefly presbyterians, to whom I preached from Romans viii. 30. *Whom he did predestinate them he also called, &c.* and hope it was not labour lost.

I went to my next appointment, about nine or ten miles distant, where I found several of the New-England town presbyterians and baptists, who had followed me thither; to whom I preached upon predestination, and they gave great attention. When I had concluded, a young man arose and told his experience. I had seen him in my last round, and he then told me that he was in great distress, and said, he was afraid that he should be lost, for that he saw no way for his escape. I then applied the promises of the gospel, and advised him to fly to Christ, and betake himself to prayer; for, said I, you have spent many a day and night in the service of the devil, and now be deter-

mined to spend the remainder of your time in the service of God. He, at that time, left me without making any reply, whether he would or not. Being a sawyer, he went to his mill, and set her to work; but, his mind being exceedingly agitated, he said to himself, What shall it profit me, if I should gain the whole world, and lose my own soul? I will take the old man's advice. So he shut down his mill, and retired into the swamp, and took himself to prayer, for about the space of three hours; sometimes on his knees, and sometimes on his face, until the Lord spake peace to his soul. Now, said he, I am as happy as I can live; and exhorted all to seek for the blessing. I desired the people to tarry, while I read our articles of faith, and also their own. They all sat down, and I read our own first, and then I proceeded to read theirs; they all sat still, until I came unto the third article, which spoke on this wise in substance: God for the purpose of his own glory, fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass, and predestinated such a certain number, both men and angels, for eternal life and the others he passed by and left to eternal damnation; and that the number was so certain and definite, that one could not either be added or diminished—At reading this they arose and left the house, I met class, and had a precious time. There were a number added to the church at this place while I rode the circuit.

At my next appointment, I tore up calvinism, I had great liberty in speaking, and many wept. After preaching, I read our articles, it being a new place, and then asked, if any had a desire to join society: there were nine who joined. I tarried that night at Mrs. Hand's.

Next day, I went to Morris-river church; and had a large congregation; there the Lord attended the word with power; his people seemed lost in the ocean of redeeming love, and several fell to the floor, and many praised God; it was a day of great power to many souls. In class, many of the dear people were so happy, that they could not speak. We had precious times generally at that place while I rode the circuit.

I went to the widow H——'s, and we had a crowded house. I preached with liberty, and God attended the word with power; many wept, and some cried out: we had a small shout in the camp. In class, we had a powerful time; a woman seemed lost in the ocean of love, clapping her hands, shouting, Glory to God! and praises to his holy name! We had a revival, and I formed the class in this place; may the Lord record their names in the Lamb's book of life!

At Tuckeho we had a crowded house. I did not expect ever to see them again, on this side of great eternity.* While we were singing,

> Come ye that love the Lord,
> And let your joys be known:
> Join in a song of sweet accord,
> While ye surround the throne.—

The power of the Lord fell on me, in such a manner, that I could neither sing nor give out the hymn, until the Lord withheld his Spirit a little, which ran through the house with power. I then prayed, and if I ever preached with life, liberty, and power, I did that day. I met class, and we had a precious time; the children of

* This proved to be the case, for he never had another opportunity of visiting them.

God seemed lost in the ocean of redeeming grace. Some lay on the floor, under the mighty power of God.

I went to my next appointment, where I found the house crowded. We had a shout in the camp of Jesus; two old sinners were cut to the heart, and got their souls converted and joined society. In class we had a wonderful time; our meeting lasted for several hours; a number lay on the floor, under the mighty power of God, and several professed sanctification. This is strange work in the eyes of the carnal heart; but glory to God, we know in whom we have believed; *Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Do not I fill heaven and earth?* Jer. xxiii. 23, 24. I went home with brother Hester.

I next preached at brother B——'s. Here the Lord attended his word with power; one sinner kneeled, first on one knee and then on the other, and soon fell on the floor and cried aloud for mercy; I met the class, and we had a shout in the camp; many prayed aloud, others shouted for joy, and *the noise was heard afar off.* Several professed sanctification, among whom were brother B——'s son Wesley, and his daughter. The son soon after took the field, as a labourer in the Lord's vineyard. May he ever be faithful, to the gift of divine grace received!

We held quarterly meeting at Murphey's church. Here I met with brother Merick, our presiding elder, and brother Cann, who rode on the Bethel circuit. On Saturday, brother Cann preached with life and power, in the demonstration of the Spirit, brother M. and myself gave exhortations; we had a profitable waiting on the Lord. On Sunday morning, brother M. opened the love-feast: after handing about the

bread and water, the people began to speak very feelingly, and the power of the Lord came down among them: many cried aloud, and others fell to the floor under the mighty power of God. Some cried aloud for mercy, and some shouted for joy—joy indeed, to see sinners flocking home to God, *as doves to the window;* others prayed aloud, so that we had the shout of a king in the camp, and the power of the Lord was present to heal those who were wounded by the Spirit of the eternal God: for *the Lord killeth and maketh alive.* By this mighty power, sinners were convinced of their undone state, without a Redeemer, and souls were converted, whereby they were enabled to shout redeeming love to God and the Lamb: some professed sanctification. Thus the work went on, until time for public preaching, so that the sacrament could not be administered during that space of time. At eleven o'clock, it was judged best to open the doors, many people were without, waiting for admittance. After a short interval, public worship began, and brother Merick preached, and after him, several exhortations were given, and divine power attended the word: several were reached to the heart, and one or two ungodly sinners, were so powerfully struck, that they were helped off by their ungodly associates, being so wrought on that they were unable to go themselves, without their help; and many of the children of God were built up in their most holy faith, for which my soul adores the God and rock of our salvation.

An appointment having been made in upper Penns-neck, by John Firth, at the house of John Stremple, a neighbourhood famous for vice and immorality, where they had no regular preaching nearer than ten or twelve miles, except now

and then a few words in a small quaker meeting, where very few of the vulgar ever attended. I was informed, that when this appointment was made, there were some present who were nearly or quite men and women grown, who had scarcely ever heard a gospel sermon in all their lives. When the day came, I. F. met me at Murphey's church, agreeably to a former appointment, and gave me notice thereof; accordingly, we set off, and on my way thither, my mind was solemnly impressed with these words, *I have a message from God unto thee*, Judges iii. 20. We went to Wm. Barber's, in upper Penn's-neck, where we dined: he used us kindly, and gave us information that we might expect some interruption, from some dissolute people: for there had been some talk of running horses on the public high-way, which led through the man's land, where the meeting had been appointed, and not far from his house, and to be at the same hour of the meeting; but this fell through. When we arrived at the place, we found a large congregation assembled; for in consequence of the novelty of a methodist meeting, the talk of an intended interruption, &c. &c. the people had generally got together. When we went into the house, as many people followed us as could well crowd in, and stand on their feet; I took my stand near the door, there being a considerable number outside. Two men followed us into the house, who appeared ill-disposed: one of them took his stand near the middle of the house, where he remained during the meeting, without offering any disturbance; the other stood about three feet from the door, with a truncheon in his hand, about two feet long, which he held by the small end: three or four others remained outside the door, with the like weapons in their hands. I sang,

and kneeled down to pray, before either of them offered any interruption: but when I besought God to visit that part of his vineyard, and to make it as famous for virtue, as it had been for vice, one of them replied, That it was as good already, as any other part he had known; and made use of several other expressions, during the time of prayer. When I had done prayer, I asked him, if he knew that he had violated the laws of the land; and, if put in force, that he had forfeited twenty pounds, and must either give security for his future good behaviour, or go to jail. I then charged him, at his peril, to desist and give no farther interruption: he made several replies, and appeared very vicious. Mrs. Hews, an old quaker woman, who sat just at my elbow, seeing the man's conduct, and hearing what had passed, bade me not to be afraid; and put me in mind of the sufferings which their friends had undergone for the cause of God. I was truly glad to find her an advocate for Jesus; though, I bless God, I did not feel the fear of man. I proceeded, and gave out my text, *I have a message from God unto thee.* Judg. iii. 20. I had not spoken long, before he began again to interrupt me, raising himself on his toes, to see if the others were at hand; but the door being surrounded by a number of the most respectable inhabitants, those club-gentry were either ashamed or afraid, so that they kept their distance. I soon found that it would not answer to dispute, and therefore, without any regard to what he was saying, I began to pour out the terrors of the law upon him, in the most awful manner I was capable of. I soon saw his countenance change, and he cried out, "Is it me, sir, you mean?" Yes, said I, you are the very man, and *I have a message from God unto you*, which

I delivered in plain terms, and began to pray for him: he quickly discovered a disposition to get out of the house; but this he could not hastily do, the crowd was so great in the door. His confusion was great, and he cried out, Do not judge, do not judge! At length he got out, and hollowed *Amen*, several times; but he soon gave that up. A quaker gentleman being at the door, said to him as he went out, "Thou hast met with thy match." I have since understood, that he had anchored his vessel in the Delaware, two or three miles distant, in order to attend this meeting; and had sworn that he never meant to weigh anchor again, until he had driven every methodist out of the neck. While I was praying for him, God convinced a woman of sin, who soon after got her soul converted, and, with her husband, joined society. Blessed be God, notwithstanding all the malice of men and devils, we had a solemn and profitable time to many souls, who were broken into tenderness. Soon after, a society was formed, and they became a precious people.

I left the circuit, after six months, having received eighty-five members into society, and had seen about fifty sanctified, by the mighty power and grace of God, and many others that had been justified. There was a great revival among the classes; may the Lord be mindful of them, and preserve them in his holy fear.

TRENTON CIRCUIT.

I left Salem, after the quarterly meeting, in order to travel Trenton circuit; and on my way thither, attended the quarterly meeting at Bethel: after preaching and exhortation on Saturday, we adjourned our meeting until Sunday morning. *Next* morning, brother Merick opened the love-

feast, and the people began to speak their experiences very feelingly: after several had spoken, and a few exhortations had been given, I arose, and exhorted them to look for sanctification; for now was the day of God's power; and the power of the Lord fell on them in such a manner, that they fell to the floor, all through the house, up stairs and down; so that speaking experiences was now at an end; for many shouted praises to God, while others cried aloud for mercy. I looked round me, up stairs, and I saw a vacancy, although the house was crowded; so I went up, and found a number of them lying all in a heap. I went to them, and found they were mourners: I exhorted them to cry earnestly to God for mercy, and spare not—they did so—I, and three or four others, prayed for them, and the Lord set all their souls at liberty, to rejoice in his love. I turned round, and there lay two others, struggling, as in the agonies of death: I kneeled and prayed, and several others did the same, and the Lord spoke peace to their souls. I looked, and by those, I saw another lay in like manner: prayer was put up in his behalf. I went to several others, in like manner; but they not being set at liberty, I went down stairs, and found that the slain, and wounded lay all through the house. I found numbers, both men and women, dispersed through the congregation. By this time, we concluded it was time for public service to begin; but it was agreed that the doors should not be opened, and therefore to dispense with public preaching. This meeting began at nine o'clock, and continued until sun about two hours high. Some were justified, and others sanctified; but what number of either, will be a secret until the day of eternity.

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From Bethel, we went to Crosswicks quarterly-meeting, in Burlington circuit. Saturday, We had preaching, and some exhortations—settled our temporal affairs, and made ready for the approaching Sabbath. I went home with brother Lovel, where we continued singing and praying, until about eleven o'clock in the evening: during which time, two souls were justified, and two sanctified. Next day, our love-feast began; but the people did not speak so lively as I could have wished. After love-feast, I preached, and the Lord was precious to some souls; then brother Lovel gave an exhortation, and one found Him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote; and several cried and wept.

I went from Crosswicks to Trenton quarterly meeting; after preaching and exhortation on the Saturday, we dismissed the congregation; and the preachers, stewards, leaders, &c. settled the temporal concerns of the circuit.

Next day, brother Merick opened the love-feast, and many spoke very feelingly. One young man was so wrought upon, that he trembled every joint in him, to that degree, he shook the bench on which he sat. I then looked round, and saw four or five lying on the floor; I left the pulpit, and went to them, and prayed for them; we had a precious time. After our love-feast ended, brother G—preached, and brother M. gave an exhortation; but there did not appear any move among the people.

Next day, I took my circuit, and went to brother C—'s, where we had a crowded house, and among them a baptist preacher. Here I tore up Calvinism with all my power. I met class, and we had a precious time; some

seemed lost in the ocean of redeeming love. One woman, who had been sanctified some years before, when I was at this place, was now as happy as she could live, having never lost the witness from that time to the present.

I went to another appointment, and preached with life and power; and God attended the word with the energy of his Spirit. Several fell to the floor, and others ran out of the house; some professed sanctification, and others experienced justification, under preaching. I met the class, and we had a peaceable waiting before the Lord. After meeting, I went to brother Pyle's.

Next day, I had a very small congregation, of about six or seven persons, and found them very dead, with regard to religion. But at my next appointment, I preached to a large congregation, in Monmouth meeting-house, where I endeavoured to make old calvinism tremble. After preaching, I met class, and found them very dull.

My next appointment was at Squankum, where I had a large congregation. Here a man, who had been for a long time under affliction, was brought to meeting, on a bed, in a waggon, being fully persuaded in his mind, that if he could get to this meeting, and hear old Abbott preach, that the Lord would convert his soul: he lay on the bed, and cried and prayed all the time of preaching. I met class, and when I spoke to him, he told me his exercise, and his belief that God would set his soul at liberty. I then said, Let us pray—we kneeled down and prayed, and according to his faith, so it was, for the Lord set his soul at liberty from sin and guilt.

At my next appointment, I preached, and we had a peaceable waiting before God. I met

class, and we had a precious season among them; a few joined society.

Our quarterly meeting was held at Long-branch. On the Saturday there appeared some little move among the people; on Sunday morning, our love-feast commenced, and several spoke very feelingly—I arose and gave them an exhortation, and the Lord laid to his helping hand, and sent the word with energy, *like a sharp two-edged sword*, to their hearts: and they fell, before the Lord, like Dagon before the ark, or like men slain in battle. Speaking their experiences was now at an end; the place was filled with acclamations of prayer and praise; some crying for mercy, others for clean hearts, and others praising God for his glorious power and grace: several professed sanctification, and others justification. We had a blessed time, and our meeting ended in great harmony.

I desired the people to give out preaching for me at Shrewsbury, a town in which the quakers, baptists, presbyterians and episcopalians, each had a house of public worship; but they all, as with one accord, refused me the liberty of their houses. I then directed, that it should be given out for me to preach in the street, which was done. When I came to the place, I found a large congregation; some judged that there were five hundred people present. I preached with great liberty; they gave great attention; God attended the word with power, and many tears were shed; although in the street. Street-preaching, or preaching in the fields and woods, is often made the most successful.

I went home with brother M. and the next day, preached to a crowded house, with liberty: the power of the Lord arrested a young quaker, and he fell to the floor, as if he had been shot:

his mother, being present, cried out "*My son is dead! My son is dead!*" I replied, Mammy, your son is not dead! look to yourself, mammy, your son is not dead: and in a few minutes we had a number slain before the Lord. An old quaker man stood with tears in his eyes: I said to him, Daddy, look to yourself; this was the way with you, when you had the life and power of God among you. Read Sewel's history of the people called quakers, and you will find there, that John Audland, a young man, was preaching in a field, near Bristol, and the people fell to the ground before him, and cried out under the mighty power of God. The man of the house brought the book, and read the passage before the congregation, and he then acknowledged it to be the work of the Lord. I attempted to meet the class, but did not speak to above two or three, when the people fell before the Lord, as men slain in battle, and we had the shout of a king in the camp of Jesus: two or three professed that God had sanctified their souls. The young quaker, and several others, professed that God had set their souls at liberty; several joined society, and we had a precious time. When I went on that circuit, there were about six or seven in society at that place, and when I left it, there were about thirty-six; six or seven of whom had been quakers. At this place, our meetings were generally so powerful that I never regularly met the class, during the time I was on the circuit: for, we always had the shout of a king in the camp of Jesus—Glory to God.

I preached at the Falls; the man of the house was a methodist, and the woman a presbyterian. We had a peaceable waiting before God. I met class, and we had a very powerful time. I impressed the doctrine of sanctification on them;

two young women fell to the floor, and one young man fell backwards, off the bench, and made such a strange noise, that he frightened the wicked all into a huddle in a corner; for as he lay near the door, they had no way to make their escape. Both the girls professed sanctification, and the young man professed to be justified.

I visited New-Brunswick, where we had no society; but God raised up one of nine members, while I remained on the circuit. May the Lord increase their number! I preached also at Princeton, where I endeavoured to pull old Calvin's errors to pieces. There, the Lord raised up a society of nine persons more, before I left the circuit. Glory to God!

Our quarterly meeting was held at brother H——'s. Brother G. preached, and brother M. gave an exhortation—In love-feast, our friends spoke very feelingly: several testified that God had sanctified their souls, while I had been on the circuit; and a number of others, that God had justified them freely. After love-feast, finding the congregation was large, we thought it best to retire to the woods, where brother G. stood in a waggon, and preached to the people; after him, brother M. gave an exhortation; when he had done, I arose and gave another; and the Lord laid to his helping hand, and slew eight or ten, who fell to the earth, under the mighty power of God; but my strength being exhausted, and no one speaking after me, the meeting broke up.

We had many blessed times, while I rode that circuit, which was about six months.*

* Mr. Abbott left the Jerseys, about the last of September, 1793, and the compiler finds, by the minutes for that year, that he was appointed to labour in the Cecil circuit, state of Maryland.

Since I have been a preacher, I have kept an account of two hundred and twenty-four souls, that I have seen sanctified. When I rode Cecil circuit, I saw thirty sanctified, and forty-three justified. When I was moved to Kent circuit, the Lord began to work powerfully—In twelve weeks, God sanctified about fifty, and justified many. For fifteen meetings, in succession, some were either justified or sanctified—We had shout after shout, and the Lord slew them, like men slain in battle.†

May 10th, 1794, I met class, and had a melting time—at night the Lord was with us of a truth: the slain lay before him.

Sunday 11th, I had a melting time in the morning, and in the afternoon a peaceable waiting before the Lord—At night, the Lord laid to his helping hand, and we had a shout in the

but how long he laboured there, the compiler is not able to determine, from any thing that appears in the manuscripts. In the minutes for the year 1794, he likewise stands on the Cecil circuit; but from the manuscript we find that he laboured on Kent circuit: but how long he laboured there, appears uncertain. He returned home, unable to travel, about the last of May, or the first of June 1795. It appears that he spent the most, if not all his time, during those years, when health permitted, on the above circuits.

†. The compiler is sorry that the manuscripts do not contain a more minute account of the labours of Mr. Abbott in those places. There can be no doubt but many things must have ocurred in that period, worthy of note, as it contains his labours from September 1793, until May 1794.

It may be observed that from this time, Mr. Abbott has been more particular in giving dates, than in any other parts of his labours.

camp, so that the noise might be heard a great way off—I took cold, and was very unwell for some days.

Thursday 15th, I met class, and had a melting time—At night the Lord opened the windows of heaven, and from the skies, poured down righteousness, so that the people fell before him, and the cries of the wounded were great.

Saturday 17th, I went to brother R——'s to preach; but being unwell, I got brother D. Abbott to preach. I met the class, and God poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that both saint and sinner wept.

Sunday 18th, I preached, and God poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that they fell before him like men slain in battle. This alarmed the wicked, and they fled for the door; but God was too strong for some of them, who were left behind weeping for their sins. I was obliged to leave the slain, in order to attend my afternoon appointment, where I met a large congregation, to whom I preached, and had a peaceable waiting upon the Lord. After preaching, at the Lord's table, we had a melting time. I went home with brother M'C—.

Next day, I went to Chester-town, and at night held a prayer-meeting. We had a powerful time, and one soul was set at liberty.

Tuesday 20th, I rode to brother C——'s, and preached to a hard-hearted people.

Next day, I preached at brother Miller's, and the Lord was with us of a truth: some wept, and others rejoiced. Brother M. informed me, that God had converted his three children, and a negro girl, the night before; and I heard them tell of the Lord's dealings and goodness to their souls—In class, the power of the Lord was pre-

sent; one was slain, and divers others were so overcome and filled with redeeming love, that they could hold no more—Glory to God, this was a good time to many, and I was happy in my own soul.

Next day, we had a peaceable waiting before the Lord, both under the word, and in class—In the evening the power of the Lord slew one, and when he revived, he testified that God had saved his soul, and cried out, "O that I had wings that I might fly to Jesus! O that I could die, to be with my Jesus!" clapping his hands, and shouting, Glory to God!

May 25th, we had a melting time; both saints and sinners wept under the word. In the afternoon, I preached from these words—*To you that fear my name, shall the sun of righteousness arise, with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall.* God attended the word with the energy of his holy Spirit, in such a manner, that numbers fell to the floor, and four found him of whom Moses and the prophets did write. The wicked flew for the door—Glory to God, there was a shaking among the dry bones, and we had a shout in the camp of Israel. In family prayer, the Lord was amongst us of a truth; one fell to the floor, and cried for mercy. Glory to God, the place was glorious because of his presence, and my soul was happy in my God.

Next day, we held a prayer-meeting in the evening, and several were struck to the floor by the power of God, and we had a shout in the camp.

May 27th, at night, we had a prayer-meeting, and the God of love was present, in the power and energy of his holy Spirit. Many cried out, and several fell to the floor, and besought God

to have mercy on their souls: three bore testimony, that God had pardoned all their sins—One lay for near an hour, as though she had been dead, and then came to, and sang, with such a melodious note, as I never had heard before. The voice seemed as if four or five were singing together—But upon examining them, no one had sung with her, neither did they understand the tune; notwithstanding they all distinctly heard it, as if four or five were singing. She then seemed to die away again, and when she came to, sang as before; this was repeated several times, at length she arose from the floor, praising God for her deliverance, declaring his goodness to her soul. It was a good time; sinners trembled and saints rejoiced—and my soul was happy.

Next day, the Lord laid to his hand, and sanctified one soul, and justified another in a powerful manner.

May 30th, I preached, and the power of the Lord was present in such a manner, that several fell to the floor—The cries and lamentations of the wounded and distressed were great.

June 1st, I preached in town—in the morning we had a melting time, many wept—in the afternoon the Lord poured out his Spirit, and the slain fell before him, like dead men; others lay, as in the agonies of death, entreating God to have mercy on their souls: some found peace. Glory to God, many in this town seem alarmed of their danger; may God increase their number. A girl, who lived with a quaker, was cut to the heart in such a manner, that they did not know how to get her home; I went to see her, and found many round her, both white and black. She lay as one near her last gasp; I kneeled down and besought God for her deli-

verance, and in a few minutes, she brake out in raptures of joy, crying out, Let me go to Jesus! repeating it several times; then she arose and went home. Glory to God! for what my eyes saw, my ears heard, and soul felt that day, of the blessed Spirit: the meeting continued from three o'clock, until evening.

Two young women at a certain place and time, sitting in their father's house, one said unto the other, If mammy had religion, I should get it too—The Lord struck her with conviction, in such a manner, that she cried so loud for mercy, that she alarmed all the house with her cries; and thus she continued, until three of her sisters were all struck, with the like conviction for sin. Their cries to God, continued near forty-eight hours, with little intermission, when God, in his infinite mercy, set two of their souls at liberty, to rejoice in his redeeming love. Another of them came to town, and met me, and I went home with her. As we were riding along the road, she being under sore distress of soul, cried aloud for mercy, and God broke in upon her soul in such a manner, that she clapped her hands and cried, Glory to God in the highest! There was another young woman in the carriage with her, and the power of God struck her in so wonderful a manner, that she lost the use of her limbs, and lay about an hour: when she came to, her first words were, "Is this perfect love?" In time of prayer, at the meeting we attended, God poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that several fell to the floor, with such cries and screeches, that a solemn awe sat on every face, and before the meeting ended, six souls were set at liberty, to rejoice in the rock of ages: Thanks be to God.

Monday, 2d of June, in prayer-meeting in the

evening, the Lord was with us of a truth. Next day, I preached and had a melting time; at night, the Lord was with us in power, and we had a proper shout. *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, thy king cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation.* Zech. ix. 19.

June 4th, I preached, and the Lord laid to his almighty power—several fell to the floor—some professed sanctification, and two to be justified: believers were built up in the most holy faith.

June 5th, I preached, and the Lord poured out his Spirit in mighty power; the cry of mourners was so great that the noise might have been heard afar off. Several were set at liberty from the bondage of sin and Satan, and were made partakers of that love, which makes glad the city of God. One professed sanctification, and several were awakened—Thanks be to the Most High.

June 6th, The Lord, under the word, poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that three or four found peace, and two professed sanctification. Believers were built up, and it was a good day to many souls. At night, we had a proper shout, one fell to the floor, and lay as if she were dead, and when she came to, she shouted and gave glory to God for her deliverane.

I met class at sister Brown's. There we had a powerful time, several were lost as in the ocean of redeeming love. Glory to God forever! One was sanctified in a powerful manner, at that meeting, and in the evening we had a melting time. The Lord filled one of our sisters with perfect love, in the carriage as she was returning home, in such a powerful manner, that she lost both the power of her body and speech; but when she reco-

vered herself, she said that God had given her a clean heart, and had filled her soul with love.

Sunday June 8th, We held a love-feast, and the Lord laid his helping hand upon us, and poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that not one soul spoke their experience in love-feast. Sinners trembled and fell to the floor, while christians shouted praises to God and the Lamb forever. One lay as if she was dead; numbers were powerfully wrought upon. This was a love-feast indeed: I never saw but one like it before, in which no one spoke their experience. I preached that day with great freedom and power.

Monday 9th, I held prayer-meeting, and the Lord manifested his love amongst us. There was a shaking among the dry bones. One lay, as if she were dead, for near two hours, and then came to with praises to God, for her deliverance, with great raptures of joy. The children of God were filled with joy unspeakable. How inexpressible are the pleasures of those, who are filled with the raptures of a Saviour's love? Ecstatic pause! "Silence heightens heaven!"

Friday 13th, I held prayer-meeting, and the power of the Lord fell upon the people in such a manner, that the slain lay all over the floor. Several were converted to God; one or two professed sanctification; Glory to God, he carried on his own work.

Saturday 14th, I preached, and had a melting time. I met class, and the power of the Lord came down, and we had a shout in the camp of the Lord.

Sunday 15th, The Lord attended the word with power, and divers fell before him, like Dagon before the ark. I was obliged to leave

the slain on the floor, in order to attend my next appointment, where I found a large congregation, to whom I preached: In class we had a melting time, and a shout in the camp. It was a day of his power; he worked, and none could hinder him. Next day, I preached at a new place, and had a favoured time; some sighed, and some groaned, and others wept.

Tuesday 17th, I preached, and the Lord attended the word with power; several were cut to the heart, and one found peace to her soul. Blessed be God, he has not forgotten to be gracious. *They that seek shall find.*

Wednesday 18th, This was a day of power: I preached, and the Lord attended the word with the energy of his Spirit. Saint and sinner felt his power; numbers cried aloud for mercy, and several found him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote. One lay as in the agony of death for some time, but glory to God, he set his soul at liberty, whereby he was enabled to rejoice in his glorious love.

Thursday 19th, I preached to a few, but there was nothing done to speak of. However, I found peace in my own soul. At evening, I met class, and the Lord was with us of a truth, we had a shout in the camp of Jesus.

Sunday 22d, I preached with life and power and the Lord manifested his presence amongst us; some cried for mercy, and a solemn awe sat on many faces. I went to my next appointment, and preached to a large congregation. The Lord laid to his helping hand, and there was a mighty shaking among the dry bones; divers persons lay through the house, as dead men and women, slain by the mighty power of God. The same Jesus who raised Lazarus from the dead, raised up nine persons, that we could

ascertain, to praise him as a sin-pardoning God; and how many more, that we could not ascertain, God only knows: for many wept, and some shouted praises to God and the Lamb—Glory to God, this was a day that will be long remembered by many precious souls. Some were so filled and running over with perfect love, that as they returned home, they shouted praises to God as they went on their way, I was as happy as I could live in the body.

Monday 23d, I held a prayer-meeting, and it was a good time to many; some were so filled with the Love of God that it took away the use of their limbs, and they lay on the floor as happy as they could live, rejoicing in the God and rock of their salvation. We had at that time, about twelve children on the circuit who were happy in religion, and the Lord was doing great things for many. My soul was on the wing.

Tuesday 24th, I held another prayer-meeting, and had a powerful time. Next day I met clase, and we had a melting time. At night I preached, and the power of the Lord was present, to the joy of his children; and we had a shout in the assembly. *Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.* Isa. xii. 6.

Thursday 26th, We had an awful time; numbers cried out for mercy, and the Lord set some at liberty to rejoice in his redeeming love. *Let thy priests be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.* 2 Chron. vi. 41.

Friday 27th, I preached, and the Lord laid to his almighty arm of power, in such a manner, that several lay as if they were in the agony of death; some trembled, and others cried aloud for mercy. Glory to the eternal God! He slays, and he makes alive. In his mercy he set

several at liberty, to rejoice in redeeming love. This was a day of his power to many souls, and my soul was happy.

Sunday 29th, I preached twice, as usual on the Sabbath; in the morning, we had a precious time; and in the afternoon, we had the shout of a king in the camp. Some were rejoicing in redeeming love; and others were crying, in bitterness of soul, for mercy at the hand of God; while the power of the Lord slew others, as men cut down in battle. It was a day of days to many souls. Glory to the eternal God! This meeting continued from three o'clock until evening.

July 3d, I preached, and had a precious time: then I met class, and the presence of the Lord was among us. *For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp to deliver thee:* Deut. xxiii. 14. Next day, the Lord was with us of a truth: one was set at liberty and several of the friends seemed lost in the ocean of God's love. In the afternoon, we had a melting time, among the friends. At night, we held a prayer-meeting, and many were slain before the Lord; one professed to be justified freely by his grace; another professed sanctification. This was a time, to my soul, long to be remembered; and I trust it will be remembered by many others. This meeting continued until near three o'clock.

Friday 4th, I preached from 1 John iv. 16. *God is love.*. It was a time of love indeed: for divers of God's dear children, were lost in the ocean of redeeming grace; and the God of love, spoke peace to three souls. That day will never be forgotten by my soul; though I was weak in body, I was strong in spirit.

Sunday 6th, I preached in the morning, and it was a good time to many; several cried

aloud, some seemed lost in the ocean of redeeming love, and I was so happy, that I could hardly refrain from crying out. In the afternoon, we had a large congregation; and the devil got angry, and made one of his servants throw some stones. We had had a happy time in class: afterwards I went home with one of our friends, and held a prayer-meeting, and the Master of assemblies was with us.

Monday evening, I held a prayer meeting, and had a melting time; some of the friends were lost as in wonder, love, and praise. The next day, I held a prayer-meeting again, and the Lord was with us. Some cried out. *Praise the Lord, O my soul! and all that is within me, praise his holy name.* The next day likewise, I held a prayer-meeting, and we had a comfortable time.

Friday 11th, I preached a funeral sermon, and the Lord was present with us. At night, I held a prayer-meeting, and we had a melting time. The next day, the Lord was with us in a powerful manner; some cried out, and others were lost in the ocean of love, and I was happy in my own soul; blessed be God, he has not forgotten to be gracious.

Sunday 13th, In the forenoon, I preached to a large congregation, and the Lord laid to his helping hand: some lay on the floor as in the agony of death, others were crying aloud for mercy, and some were shouting praises to God, being filled with his love. Several fled out of the house, choosing rather to risk their lot among the damned, than to expose themselves in the congregation, by asking mercy at the hand of God. The Lord set one soul at liberty, and another professed sanctification. *The Lord's hand is not shortened.* In the afternoon, I went

to my other appointment, where I met a large congregation, to whom I preached, and the Lord made bare his arm in such a manner, that there was a shaking among the dry bones: some cried aloud, others were happy in God. Glory to his dear name, my soul was happy.

Monday 14th, I preached and had a melting time; sinners were cut to the heart, believers were transported with the presence of God, and my heart was swallowed up in redeeming love. I joined ten in society; may God record their names in the Lamb's book of life! In the evening, I preached again, and the Lord poured out his Spirit, and we had a shout in the camp of Israel.

Next day, under preaching, the power of God was with us in such a manner, that some wept, and others seemed lost in the ocean af love. One professed sanctification, and another was so struck by the mighty power of God, that she shook from head to foot, as if in the agony of death, for near the space of twohours; sometimes crying to God for mercy, at other times that her heart would break; at length, her strength failed, and she lay for a time, like one dead: when she came to, she praised God for her deliverance, while many stood round her amazed. Glory to God, for a miracle of grace! I was so happy that I could hardly utter a sentence, until God withdrew his hand a little. Were we to be always thus happy, we should be disqualified for earth, or worldly things, O! what raptures shall we have in heaven!

Wednesday 16th, I preached, and the Lord poured out his Spirit, both under the word and in class, in so wonderful a manner, that a woman lay under the mighty operation of the Spirit of God, as one dead, for near the space of three

hours; several felt her hands and arms, and they were apparently cold as if she had been dead and laid out; but glory to God, when he, by his Spirit, revived her, she could testify that he had sanctified her soul, and filled her with joy unspeakable. Several of the friends, were baptized in the fountain of love; and for my own part, I was so filled with the love of God that I could hold no more: it was *good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.* Luke vi. 38. I adore God, for what I have felt and seen; my tongue or pen, can never express it, on this side of eternity.

Saturday 19th, Our quarterly meeting began, and we had a blessed time to many souls.

Sunday 20th, our meeting began at six o'clock in the morning, and when we had sung and prayed, the power of God came down in such a manner that the slain lay all through the house. Some seemed lost in the ocean of God's love, some professed justification, and others that God had sanctified their souls. This meeting was so powerful, that but one attempted to speak her experience in love-feast: while she was speaking, she sunk down, crying out. *God has made me all love!* Immediately, the house was filled with cries and praises to God; some trembled and were astonished. We had to carry the slain out of the house, in order to make room that the people might come in, for the public preaching—And when we had sung and prayed, the presence of the Lord came down as in the days of old, and the house was filled with his glory: the people fell before him, like men slain in battle. It was a great day of God's power to many souls; some professed sanctification, some justification, and others were lost as in the ocean of redeeming love. This was a day of days to my soul. The windows being open, there were hundreds

outside, gazing at those in the house, who were slain before the Lord; but they lay both in the house, and out of it. Prayers were put up to God, both within and without the house, in behalf of the penitents and mourners. I trust that many date their conviction, and others their conversion, from that quarterly meeting. I went from this meeting, to brother D——'s, with some other friends, where we joined in prayer, and the Lord (glory to his name) poured out of his Spirit in a powerful manner amongst us. I then went home with some friends, where we sang praises to God; and while we were singing, the power of God fell on me, in such a manner, that I cried out: the power reached all in the room, and one fell to the floor, crying to God; after some time, she cried out, I see Jesus! (repeating it several times) and then, I see Moses and Elias! but not with my bodily eyes. She then cried out, I am going, my arms are dead; call Mrs. A.! When Mrs. A. came, she told her, that she saw her mother, standing in white; then gave some words of exhortation to repentance. She then died away, and lay in that state about twenty minutes; afterwards she came to, and declared that the Lord had sanctified her soul, praising God and the Lamb in raptures of joy! Another fell, as if she had been shot, and lay some time; when she came to, she likewise professed sanctifying grace. This little meeting held about four hours.

Monday, I held prayer-meeting in the evening, and God visited us in such a manner, that several fell to the floor; some professed to find him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote: this meeting held until three in the morning.

Tuesday, I met class, and had a melting time, the members seemed swallowed up in the ocean *of love*. One was sanctified in a powerful man-

ner: it was a happy time to my soul. In the evening, under preaching, the Lord set the soul of one at liberty to rejoice in his love. *The shout of a king was among them.* Numbers xxiii. 21.

Wednesday, Under the word, some found peace, and one experienced sanctifying grace; many were lost as in the ocean of love, and we again had *the shout of a king* in the camp.

Thursday, In the forenoon, under preaching, God poured out his Spirit in a powerful manner; his children were happy in his love; and it was a good time to my own soul. In the evening we had a peaceable waiting before God. How pleasant is it, to be found in the work of the Lord, when the blessed Redeemer is with us.

Next day, I preached and met class, and we had a precious time among the children of God. At night, I held a prayer-meeting, and the power of the Lord was present among us; one professed justification, and God's children were built up in their most holy faith. Nothing is so encouraging to a minister, as to see sinners converted, and the people of God going forward in their journey toward the heavenly Canaan.

Saturday 26th, I went to quarterly meeting, Dover circuit, Kent county, Delaware state: we had a happy day. On Sunday, in love-feast, the Lord God of Elijah, who answereth by fire, poured out his Spirit in such a manner that the altar of the christians' hearts was all in a flame with the seraphic fire of love. *Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, &c. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, &c. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, &c. And when the people saw it, they*

fell on their faces: and they said, the Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God. 1 Kings xviii. 36—39. So on that day, when the fire of the Lord came down, the people fell and acknowledged the power of God; and the slain lay all about the house; some were carried out as dead men and women; while others were lost in the ocean of love, shouting praises to God and the Lamb. The house was filled with the glory of Israel's God, who spoke peace to mourners, while sinners were cut to the heart. Glory to God, it was a high day to my own soul. It was thought there were about fifteen hundred looking on, with wonder and amazement at the mighty power of God, which caused the powers of hell to shake and give way; many of the spectators trembled and were astonished; a number professed faith in Christ, and others sanctifying grace. God's dear children generally were refreshed in redeeming love. This was one of the days of the son of man—Glory to God saith my soul.

Monday, I was very unwell, but happy in the love of God. On Tuesday, in family prayer, the power of God came down wonderfully upon us, four fell to the floor, and they *found him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth*, to the joy of their souls.

Wednesday 30th, I held prayer-meeting, and the Lord made bare his almighty power to the joy of his children; one fell to the floor, divers were plunged into the ocean of love, and we had a shout in the camp of Israel.

Thursday, I met class—one fell to the floor, intreating God for mercy, and soon lay as one dead for near an hour; it was a happy time to the children of God.

Friday, Aug. 1st, I preached, and had a good time; met class, and had a melting time amongst the dear children of God. At night, after preaching, I dismissed the people, but they would not go away; perceiving this, I gave out a hymn and went to prayer, and the Lord poured out his Spirit, and slew them as men slain in battle: some lay as in the agonies of death: some were rejoicing in God; others were crying for mercy; and blessed be the Most High, he met with many to the joy of their souls; and his dear children were built up in their most holy faith. This meeting lasted for near four hours, and I trust will not be forgotten by many.

Saturday 2d, I went to the quarterly-meeting. It was a very wet day; but, glory to God, he poured out his Spirit in such a manner, that the house was filled with cries: some shouting praises to God for redeeming love: others intreating for mercy: while divers persons lay slain before the Lord, by his mighty power, as in the agonies of death. It was a day of God's power to many souls: some professed sanctification, and others justification. I went to the house, and baptized a child: in time of prayer, the mother shook every joint in her body; four persons fell to the floor; one professed that God had sanctified her soul; another cried out, *I see Jesus!* repeating it divers times, and then said, *I am full!* Lord, hold thy hand! for I can contain no more.

Saturday August 9th, it rained so that I could not attend my appointment; but a few friends came to the house, in the evening, and we had a prayer-meeting. The power of the Lord came down in such a manner among us, that the place was glorious because of his presence, and the

dear children of God were fed with his heavenly manna, to the joy of their souls.

Sunday 10th, I preached to a large congregation, and the Lord opened the windows of heaven and poured down righteousness; some wept, and some rejoiced; some were crying for mercy, and others were praising God: one rose up and said, that God had sanctified her soul, clapping her hands with praises to God; another cried out, that God had pardoned all her sins: the sacred flame of God's love spread through the house. Glory to God, it was a good day to my soul. *Let every creature praise the Lord! Praise him, O my soul!* In the afternoon, I went to my other appointment, where I found a large congregation waiting to hear the word. Here I met with brother C. and he preached from, *Ye must be born again;* and when he had concluded, I arose and gave an exhortation, and God made the application with power, so that there was a *shout in the camp:* many were lost in the ocean of love—this was a happy day to my soul.

Monday 11th, I had a favoured time in delivering the word; three joined in society; and many were cut to the heart. I spoke freely and plainly to them of the things of God, that appertained to their souls' eternal welfare. I left divers of them in tears, and trust that some good seed was sown that day, which will be found, with its increase, in great eternity. I went to town, and in the evening held a prayer-meeting: we sang and began to pray, and God began to work among the people in power. The house was filled with cries and groans to God for mercy, and numbers fell to the floor, and one fell across my feet. The cries of the distressed made the streets to ring; many stood gazing at those who were slain before the Lord, and at

those who were praising God aloud in raptures of joy, for their deliverance. I embraced the opportunity to speak for my God; and I asked them, if that which they heard was the language of the devil. Hark! you hear no cursing nor swearing; certainly, this is not the language of drunkards, or of horse-racers, or of revellers, or any such like. Their cry is "*Mercy, or I perish!*" I asked one woman, what she thought was the matter with another, that lay on the floor; she answered, that she thought her sin was the cause of it, and that she was crying to God for mercy—I exhorted her to do likewise, telling her that God would have mercy on her also.

Tuesday 12th, I preached, and had a precious time—I met class, and some of the dear children were overwhelmed in the fountain of love.

Wednesday 13th, I preached, and many were cut to the heart; one cried aloud for mercy, others were happy in the love of God. It was a good time to my soul.

Thursday 14th, I preached to a hard-hearted people. I told them their danger if living in sin; but I saw little or no effects. I hope that the seed of the word will be found not altogether lost; but that some fell, where it will bring forth fruit. In the evening, I met class, and we had a shout in the camp: four joined society. It was a happy time to the dear children of God.

Next day, I held a prayer-meeting, and the Lord laid to his helping hand; one cried out and fell to the floor, with screeches that seemed to pierce the hearts of many. Six others also fell to the floor, and cried aloud for mercy, so that the noise was heard a mile and a half.—One sinner stood looking on, and I said to him, *Sinner, pray;* for I do not know but that God

may strike you dead and send you to hell in a moment! With that, I called up all the people to pray for him; and he sunk down to the floor, and called on God for mercy. I left him, and three others, in sore distress for their sins—some found the pearl of great value—thanks be to the Most High—it was a happy time to my soul.

Saturday 16th, I read and prayed, and found an uninterrupted peace in my soul.

Sunday 17th, I preached to a tender-hearted people, and the Lord poured out his Spirit upon them; some wept, and some groaned, while God's children were rejoicing in his love; one found peace; two joined society; and it was a good time to my soul.

I went to my next appointment, where I preached with great liberty, and the Master laid to his almighty arm of power. There was a great shaking among the dry bones, several fell to the floor, some as dead men, while the cries of others for mercy, were very great; several lay as in the agonies of death, and several found peace to their troubled souls, whereby they were enabled, to rejoice in the Rock of eternal ages. Two professed that God had deepened the work in their souls, and eight joined society:—may God record their names in the Lamb's book of life. This meeting held from three o'clock until night; some were shouting praises to God and the Lamb, some praying with and for the disconsolate, so that the noise might be heard afar off. It was a day of God's power to many souls, and several went from the house, crying to God for mercy; for my own part, I was almost lost in the ocean of love. I spoke until I was so exhausted that I could say no more; and then I withdrew from the house; I went and laid down in order to refresh the body.

Wednesday 20th, I met class, the Lord was with us in power, and his dear children were all filled with love, I was so happy that I could contain no more, and I told them that I was as happy as I could wish to be in the hour of death, Glory to God, for what he has done for poor me! *Happy is that people, who is in such a case; yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord:* Psa. cxliv. ver. 15.

Thursday 21st, We had a melting time under the word: and in class also we had a precious time: seven joined society. Several seemed as it were lost in the ocean of love: *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, &c.* Gal. v. 22.

Friday 22d. I went to a friend's house and held prayer-meeting: and we had a precious time; some poor sinners wept sorely; may God comfort them! I thank God, we had a happy time there.

Saturday 23d, I went to see a friend: and she told me that a young man in the neighbourhood wanted to see me; I asked her, for what? she replied, that he had dreamed he was in hell; and in his torment and dreadful agony, he tho't that he saw me at a distance, praying for him with uplifted hands—he then awoke, in the greatest distress imaginable, all in a profusion of sweat, so great had been his agony. He immediately after, came in, where I was, and related the same thing. I told him it was a loud call to prepare to meet God; and he appeared very sensible of his imminent danger: and promised to amend his life. I recommended them to God in prayer, and left them and went to town.

Sunday 24th, I preached, and had a melting time; some cried out aloud; it was a happy time to my soul. In the afternoon, brother C. preached from, *And in hell he lifted up his eyes*

being in torment, Luke xvi. 23. and God attended the word in power. After he had concluded, I arose and gave an exhortation from the same words; and one sunk to the floor, and many wept aloud, and we had a shout in the camp. I went to one of the distressed, and prayer was made for her; but her mother came and seized her by the arm, and when she found that she did not answer her by moving her, she began to pinch her, as if she would pinch pieces out of her flesh. I looked up and prayed to God, to have mercy on this old devil-hardened sinner, and called upon all the people to pray for the poor old sinner; she seemed to be struck for some time; but soon got her daughter by the arm again and pulled and bore her off——This was a precious day to my soul—Glory to God for the wonders of redeeming love!

Monday 25th, I read, meditated, and prayed through the day; and held a prayer-meeting in the evening. God was with us in a powerful manner; and many were filled with love.

Tuesday 26th, I preached and the power of the Lord was present to heal; in class we had a shout in the camp—Glory to God for ever, this was a precious time to many souls!

Wednesday 27th, I preached, and the Lord attended the word with the energy of his holy Spirit; his children were refreshed in spirit, and built up in the faith; four joined society. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and let all my powers magnify the Most high!

Thursday 28th, I preached, and had the shout of a King in the camp of Jesus. Many seemed to bathe in the *fountain* that was *opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness:* Zech. xiii. 1. It was a precious time to my soul. In the evening we had a peaceable waiting before the Lord.

and I trust some had their strength renewed. *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint:* Isa. xl. 31.

Friday 29th, I preached and administered the Lord's Supper; we had a favoured time to our edification—Thanks be to God for his love to his creatures. The next day, I met three classes and had a precious time among the dear children of God.—Many of them seemed as if lost in redeeming love; and a baptist woman joined society. In the evening we had a shout in the camp; and two joined class, and several were lost as in the ocean of God's love; it was a good time to my own soul.

Sunday 31st, In the morning the master of assemblies was present; some wept, and we had a small shout. In the afternoon appointment, the Lord laid to his helping hand in the power and energy of his spirit; the devil was put to flight; and I believe about fifty fled out of the house, with fright, anger, or astonishment; for the people fell down before the Lord, as men slain in the battle, and lay as if they were dead; thus the cries and screeches of the wounded, so alarmed the wicked, that divers of them could not stand it, and were put to flight. But many others were clapping their hands, shouting praises to God and the Lamb, for the manifestation of his love shed abroad in their hearts; so that we had the shout of a king in the camp. Glory be to God, who caused the strong holds of the devil to give way. Our little army was in good spirits, filled with faith and the Holy Ghost; and I trust, in the strength of Jesus, we took the ground:—thanks be to God for that day's victory. *So shall the Lord of hosts come down to fight for Mount Zion,* Isa. xxxi. 4.

And the Lord wrought a great victory that day. 2 Sam. xxiii. 10. *Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty:* 1 Chron. xxix. 11.

September 1st, 1794, I read and prayed, &c. In the evening I held a prayer-meeting; and we had a good time: one fell to the floor crying to God for mercy, and found peace to her soul; three boys were powerfully wrought upon, and wept bitterly.

Tuesday 2d, I read and prayed, &c. through the day; and in the evening held a prayer-meeting; we had a precious time, and a shout in the camp—many were happy in God's love.

Wednesday 3d, I preached, and the Lord was present to wound and to heal. Some cried out, under a sense of their undone state by nature; some sighed; some groaned; some shouted praises to God; and some ran away as if determined to take hell by storm, rather than to expose themselves in the congregation, by begging or crying for mercy at the hand of God. What a pity that the opposers do not well consider, Acts v. 39. *But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God;* again, Acts xxiii. 9. *Let us not fight against God.*

Thursday 4th, On my way to my next appointment, I overtook a woman to whom I said, How do you do? she answered, "I am very poorly, and am taking a ride for my health"—This, said I, brings us to think of death—"Do you think, said she, that I have lived fifty-two years and never thought of dying? I perceive that you are a methodist; I know my prayers, and have got my prayer-book and my bible, and can read as well as you"—she shen asked my name—I told her *Benjamin Abbott.* "Ah! said she, *I* have heard of your preaching *hell* and

damnation to the people; but I would never suffer any one to tell me of hell and damnation." Do you know, said I, what our Lord said? "Yes, said she, as well as you do." I told her, that our Lord said, *Verily verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*, John iii. 3; and if you are not born of the Spirit (living and dying so,) you will as surely be damned as that you have got a soul. She appeared rather angry, and there being a gate that led to the left, she turned in thereat, and so we parted. I went on, thinking what poor creatures we are by nature. I spent the remainder of the day in prayer for the prosperity of Zion.

Friday 5th, I rode to brother H.'s, and met class in the evening; and the Lord poured out his blessings in such a manner upon us, that the weeping and shouting might have been heard a great way off. Glory to God! that was a happy time to many souls. *So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And when the people heard the sound of the trumpets, and the people shouted with a great shout, the wall fell down flat.* Joshua vi. 20.

Saturday 6th, I rode to my appointment, and preached to a blessed people, and the Lord was with us in a powerful manner. In class, the dear people spoke very feelingly of God's goodness to their souls, and we had a precious time. At night I met a class, and we had a shout in the camp. *And when the ark of the covenant came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.* 1 Sam. iv. 5. Several were lost in the ocean of love; and three joined society. This was a precious time to my soul.

Sunday 7th, I preached with freedom; after preaching, I met class, and we had a favoured

time. I went home with one of the friends, and in family prayer we had a happy time. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise his holy name for ever.

Monday 8th, I preached, and the Lord poured out his Spirit, and we had a shaking among the dry bones of Israel. (See Ezek. xxxvii.) Some were lost in the ocean of love; and in class we had a precious time; and in family prayer the Lord poured out his Spirit, and we had a shout. I was as happy as I could wish.

Tuesday 9th, I preached, and the Master favoured us with a feeling sense of his presence, several were lost in the ocean of love. Six joined society, and divers spoke feelingly of God's goodness to their souls.

Wednesday 10th. The Lord was present in our assembly to the joy of his children. In class he particularly remembered his needy creatures. I was happy in my own soul: but was under bodily affliction, which prevented me from preaching in the evening.

Thursday 11th, I continued full of pain in body, but happy in soul. Glory to God, when he afflicts with one hand, he comforts with the other. *The days of affliction have taken hold upon me;* Job xxx. 16.

Friday 12th, I had a fit of the ague, which was followed with a violent fever; during which period, being light-headed, and wandering in my mind, I was informed that I continued preaching and praying until it abated.

Saturday 13th, being a little better, I went and met class in the evening, and had a precious time—thanks be to God for his goodness to poor me.

Sunday 14th, I was very unwell; but I besought God, that if it was his will that I should

go to my appointments, that he would strengthen me for this once, as he did Sampson among the Philistines; and he did so: for I was enabled to attend my morning appointment, and preach; and blessed be God, he laid to his helping hand, and we had a shout in the camp, and four joined society. I attended my other appointment and preached, and the Lord poured out his Spirit in power. At the table of the Lord, we had such a time as I never saw before; divers lost all the power of their bodies, and were overwhelmed in the love of God, and seemed lost in redeeming love. I tarried with them until I was so overcome that I was obliged to retire to the house, where I threw myself on the bed, until I recovered my bodily strength a little; but I still heard them shouting praises to God and the Lamb. This was a happy day to my soul. *Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice: let the inhabitants of the Rock sing: let them shout from the top of the mountains:* Isa. xlii. 11.

Monday 15th, I was very unwell, and just as my ague was coming on, I went into the cold bath, and then into bed, where I was covered up warm: and in fifteen minutes I began to sweat, and the ague left me; but the fever returned, and I remained very unwell all next day.

Wednesday 17th, I went to town, and met class; and the Lord was present to the joy of many souls: I was as happy as I could wish to be in the body.

Thursday 18th, I attended my appointment and preached to the people; and we had a precious time, and God's children were filled with his love. In class, his power was present to the joy of many souls. I went home with Joshua Dudley, and spent the evening much to my sa-

tisfaction in conversing on the things of God. Next day, I went to town, and on the 21st, I preached in the forenoon, and had a peaceable waiting on the Lord. In the evening the Lord was with us of a truth: some cried out, some fell to the floor, and others seemed ravished with the love of God.

On the 25th, I went to brother V——'s, and preached, and the Lord poured out his Spirit; some fell to the floor, and others were lost in redeeming love. Here I remained about two weeks: my horse being lame and unable to travel; and I was so much afflicted myself, that I was obliged to take my bed. During my illness, brother V. was taken with the pleurisy and lay about ten days, and then departed this life in the triumphs of faith. *Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.* Rev. xiv. 13.

Soon after this, our quarterly meeting began at Georgetown, and we had a shout in the camp; some fell to the floor, others cried aloud for mercy; two said, that God had sanctified their souls: and others that they had found him of whom Moses and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth—Glory to God for what he has done for sinners! *Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.* Isa. xliv. 23.

[The compiler is sorry, that he is not possessed of any information relative to Mr. Abbott's labours, from any thing that appears in the manuscripts, for near the space of five months from this time: as the next thing that occurs is a letter dated February 1795: an extract of which is as follows:].

REV. SIR,

OH, what species of disquietude, what kind of anxiety and remorse is that which occupies my breast! It is beyond expression; but I cannot assign any wise or good reason for such an extraordinary sensibility—probably it may be said, that it is for want of information in respect of education, that I am ignorant of this strange sensation—not so—I have languages; I have philosophy; I have astronomy; am acquainted with the motions of the heavenly bodies; I have the arts and sciences, &c. &c. and yet cannot obtain consolation and serenity of mind; but am harassed and wonderfully tormented by, I know not what, in the silent watches of the night; I am alarmed with dreams, visions, and awful apprehensions.—Sir, your thoughts upon this, I want; and hope, that in the course of your discourse to-morrow, you may communicate something which may console the mind of your disconsolate friend,

I. H. D.

To the Rev. Father Abbott.

The author of this extract, was one who had denied the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ; but, having been previously convinced about his soul, he came to our quarterly meeting, and the Lord struck him with such a sense of his sin, and with such power, that he fell to the floor, and lay as one dead, for near or quite the space of one hour; and when he came to, he praised God for his deliverance. Next morning he burnt all his romantic books, and amongst them Paine's Age of Reason;* and sent for a barber

* Rather, his abominable book of infidelity: or obscene, ludicrous, sophistical logic, in contempt of religion, and support of profanity and licentiousness. "And there was given unto him a

and had his hair cut short, having formerly worn it long; he joined class, and now stands in a fair way for the kingdom of God.

At this quarterly meeting we had a very powerful time; the slain fell down before the Lord like Dagon before the ark. Some professed justification, and others that God had deepened the work of religion in their souls, by giving them sanctifying grace. The flame spread round the circuit, and many were brought to the knowledge of God. A great revival took place in the town; and it was kept up for the space of near or quite six months, and many were brought to the knowledge of the truth, in that little town, for which my soul adores the God and Rock of my salvation.

In one of our meetings I observed a quaker young woman, in the time of meeting, gazing among the slain which lay all around her; perceiving her to be unconcerned, and insensible of her own state, I told her that she ought to pray for her own soul's happiness; looking her right in the face, I began to pray for her with all the power that God had given me; and I called upon all in the house to do likewise. I soon perceived that she could not stand the power of prayer; she hung down her head, and made for the door; but the crowd being so great, she could not hastily get out of the house. Observing this, I cried to God to pursue her by the energy of his Spirit, through the streets; to pursue her in the parlour, in the kitchen, and in the garden; to pursue her in the silent watches of the night, and to shew her the state of the damned in

mouth speaking great things and blasphemies: and he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." Rev. xiii. 5, 6.

hell; to give her no rest day nor night, until she found rest in the wounds of a blessed Redeemer! Three days after, as she was walking in the garden, God set all her sins in an alarming manner before her eyes; she went into the house, and told her mother that she had done enough to condemn her soul for ever; even for disobedience to her, she might be condemned; but, said she, "I have found a people that serves God, and I am determined to go amongst them." Her mother said, before she should go among them, she would break every bone in her skin; "Well, said she, I am determined to save my soul, but in every other thing to obey you as a child." Upon this, there came in an old friend, and he strove to persuade her to remain among the friends; but she told him that she was determined to give diligence to save her soul: accordingly, she went to a prayer-meeting, where the Lord broke in upon her soul with power: she joined class, and became very bold in the cause of God, bearing the cross of Christ, and praying in meetings appointed for that purpose; and she stands fair for the kingdom of God. Some time after, she came to see me, and told me how angry she was at me when I prayed for her as above related; but now, said she, I thank God that I ever saw thy face, notwithstanding my trials from my friends are very great. I told her, that if she was faithful she might conquer or win them all, and exhorted her to stand fast in that liberty wherewith Christ had made her free.

[N. B. Here the account, which Mr. Abbott gave of himself, in his manuscripts, ends.]

A

NARRATIVE

OF THE

LIFE AND DEATH

OF THE

Rev. Benjamin Abbott.

By JOHN FFIRTH.

THIS eminent servant of Christ was born in the year of our Lord 1732: as he grew in years, he grew in vice; and being a stout strong man, and of a good constitution, few men were able to contend with him in bodily strength. Being naturally fond of company and strong drink, it often led him into vice and bad company; where, if any affront or insult were offered him, he seldom failed to deal out blows in a very heavy and plentiful manner to the aggressor—Yet I never understood that he ever beat or abused a civil man. However, he took great delight in fighting, and frequently attended fairs, and other public places, in order to meet with those of his own disposition. At other times he worked hard, and got a comfortable living for his family, and supported the character of an honest man; and as far as I ever heard, made a good husband, and a kind parent. In his most wicked days, he considered it beneath the dignity of a *man to* use his wife or children ill.

He continued in this scene of life until the fortieth year of his age, when the Lord in his infirite mercy, met with him in the power and energy of his Spirit, and convinced him of his undone and fallen state. He sought God; and, after many painful conflicts of soul, he found peace and pardon on the 12th day of October, 1772. In commemoration of his conversion to God, he annually kept the 12th day of October unto the Lord, in fasting, prayer, and thanksgiving, until the day of his death.

Shortly after his conversion, he was called of God to labour in his vineyard, in which he conferred not with flesh and blood; but, like St. Paul, he immediately preached Christ, and him crucified; shewing that the grace of God abounded to the chief of sinners: in delivering the everlasting truths of the Gospel, he was above the fear of men or devils. He was neither elevated by applause, nor yet dejected by persecution; and whether he was called a good man or a devil, it was of the least importance to him. His chief concern appeared to be the knowledge of his duty to God, and the faithful discharge of the same, independently of what men might think or say.

He was a man of great humility; he possessed an affable child-like simplicity; he was bold in the cause of God; fervent in his devotion and supplications; zealous in declaring the truth, and everlasting gospel of Christ; in which he neither sought nor courted the applause of man. On all occasions he laboured with great zeal and diligence, declaring the terrors of God's law against the ungodly, and administering consolation to the penitent, by the promises of the gospel.

He was a man of great faith, and often spoke in the power and demonstratisn of the Spirit, of

which he was favoured of God in a very extraordinary manner. The Lord often wrought wonders by and through his instrumentality, to the conviction, conversion and sanctification of many. And although his language was neither learned nor eloquent; but, on the contrary, plain, simple and illiterate—yet it was frequently attended with such divine power and energy on the hearts of the hearers, that they fell before him, like men slain in battle by the mighty power of God. In him it was clearly manifested, *that the excellency of the power was not of man, but of God.* He spoke not in the wisdom of man, but with the power of God. He was upwards of sixteen years a local preacher in the methodist connection; but he laboured and travelled considerably during that period; and, perhaps, no local preacher was ever known to be more useful in the connection. He was abundant in labours, in zeal and in faith.

In April, 1789, he entered the itinerant connection, in which he laboured with his usual zeal and diligence; though often under great affliction of body. It appeared that wherever he went, the Lord was with him, and made him an instrument in the conversion of sinners.

In 1790, he was elected to the office of a deacon; and in 1793 he was ordained an elder; yet so great was his humility and modesty, that he never made any mention of either in his manuscripts. He travelled and laboured till his bodily strength failed him. In May, 1795, he returned home under bodily affliction, and was never afterwards able to attend a circuit.

He was a *son of thunder* in the ministry, and diligent in attending on the means of grace; He stood firm for the cause of God, reproving, warning, and exhorting all that came in his way, as a *workman that needed not to be ashamed*

and often it was as *bread cast on the water, to be gathered after many days.*

It is not my design to amuse my readers in a biographical manner; yet, as a tribute due to the memory of a pious and useful servant of God, and for the information and satisfaction of God's people, permit me to say, from many years personal acquaintance with him—that, as a christian, he was a man who feared God, and kept his commandments; and as a minister in promulgating the gospel, he always appeared to have an eye single to the glory of God and salvation of souls—An example, worthy of imitation by all the watchmen of Zion.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to give an extract from the minutes of conference, for the year of our Lord 1796, where we have the testimony of his brethren in the ministry, shewing how he stood in the opinion and esteem of them:—

"Question—Who have died this year?

"Answer—Benjamin Abbot, about twenty years in the society;* several years a local preacher. Eight or ten years of his life he travelled considerably through York, Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.† He was a man of a child-like simplicity and sincerity; of great faith and unshaken confidence in God. Touching his ministry, he was not skilled in the refinements of language, or arts of elocution; yet has often been heard to speak with the demonstration of the spirit, and with great

* In this there is a small miſtake: he was in ſociety upwards of twenty-three years. He was a local preacher, better than ſixteen years, and a travelling preacher better than ſeven years. He joined ſociety about February, 1773, and died Auguſt, 1796——making about twenty-three years ſix months.

† This includes part of his travels as a local preacher.

power. He was owned of God as an instrument of convincing, converting, and sanctifying power to many souls. He laboured with great weakness toward the last; and although a strong man in body, was brought down to a child-like weakness, and lingered out his days in pain. He died, August 1796. Perhaps he was one of the wonders of America, no man's copy—an uncommon zealot for the blessed work of sanctification, and preached it on all occasions and in all congregations, and what was best of all, lived it—He was an innocent holy man—He was seldom heard to speak about any thing but God and religion—His whole soul was often overwhelmed with the power of God. He was known to hundreds, as a truly primitive methodist preacher; and a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost. His last labours were upon the Eastern Shore, where many will remember him for years to come; and will, we hope and trust, shout the praises of God and the Lamb with him to all eternity. Several revivals have taken place by his means; sometimes upon the hearts of the preachers and people; yea, we trust the sacred flame still spreads in the much favoured peninsula, begun chiefly by his instrumentality. His life was pressed out as at every pore of the body: he was brought very low before he died, and made perfect through suffering."

It is well known that Mr. Abbott's zeal in the cause of God, often led him to labour in his master's vineyard, even when under great bodily afflictions; which were frequently encreased by his loud and long speaking, till nature seemed at times almost exhausted; so great was his love to, and concern for, the welfare of precious souls. This led him to so close an attention to *his circuit*, and punctual attendance on his ap-

pointments, that he was seldom at home, during his travels as an itinerant preacher; but when at home, his zeal and diligence were still the same, and his labours were to the edification of the church: many, on those occasions, have witnessed the truth of Solomon's assertion, *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.* Prov. xxvii. 17. For my own part, I have thought that his appearance in the congregation was a means of giving life and vigour to the assembly; at least it has been so to me.

His last appointment stands on the minutes for Cecil circuit, state of Maryland; but he laboured that year likewise in Kent. On his way to a quarterly meeting, about the first of February 1795, the presiding elder mentioned to him, "That the people there thought he had power, by faith, to open or shut the gates of heaven." Mr. Abbott said to me, when conversing on this subject, "It went through my soul like a dagger; I was grieved, for I saw that the idea led to idolatry, in ascribing to a poor mortal the power which is due to God only. I felt as if my usefulness were at an end; although I did not discover to brother W——, the presiding elder, how exceedingly I was hurt, nor was he, I believe, sensible of it." They attended the quarterly meeting in great harmony; and the Master of assemblies was present to the joy and consolation of many. At night, Mr. Abbott was taken very ill, and never was able to attend a circuit as a travelling preacher, or scarcely ever to preach afterwards; so that his usefulness, indeed, was in one sense at an end.——I shall here give an account of his illness, or affliction, according to the best information I have been able to obtain.

He was taken on the 2d or 3d of February '95

with a violent ague, which continued during the night, and was followed by a violent fever and pain in his side: a doctor was called in, who blistered him, and gave such other prescriptions as he thought proper. The doctor visited him a few times, and then (all human probability of recovery being gone) gave him up as a dead man. He lay in this low condition about three weeks; and so intent was his mind in the cause of God and upon the work of the ministry, that, at times, when light-headed through the violence of the fever, he would pray and preach, and dismiss the congregation, supposing himself on his circuit, and tell them, that day two weeks they might expect preaching again.

One day, several friends being present, and apprehending that he was near his end, he was asked if he did not think he was dying; he answered, no: God had not made it known to him, and he did not think that he would take him out of the world without giving him some foresight of it; but added, I am perfectly resigned to the will of God, either in life or death. He has since informed me, that his *peace was as a river*, and that the devil was not permitted to tempt him during all his illness; for which his soul magnified the Most High.

About the 23d of February he began to mend; but still continued in a rack of pain, which in a great measure banished sleep from him—But a doctor, who was a member of society, went to see him, and administered some medicine that immediately relieved him; and when he called on him next day, found him better, and proposed his being moved to his own house; as the distance and multiplicity of his business prevented him from attending him where he then was. I regret that I am not, at present, possessed of the names of the dear family and the doctor; who,

together with other friends, were very kind to him. Many came to see him from far and near; and after he began to mend so as to exercise himself a little, "We had," said he, "precious times together in singing and praying."

He was removed to the doctor's in a carriage, without receiving any injury by the journey, where he was kindly received. Prayer-meetings were held in the room where he lay: and the Master of assemblies used to be present in the power of his Spirit to the consolation of his children. And notwithstanding all his afflictions of body, he informed me that he had precious and happy times with that dear family; and that he had reason to believe God had deepened his work in the hearts of both the doctor and his wife. When the doctor was out, his wife generally staid with him in the room, where their conversation was about the work of God, and his gracious dealings to their souls. It appears he was upwards of two months at the doctor's, where he so far recovered as to be able to walk out and to travel a little; though his cough and spitting still continued. He left there about the first of May, if my information be correct.

I find in his own hand writing the following note: from which it appears that he attended the quarterly-meeting at Dover that spring. The note appears to be written after he left the doctor's.

"The quarterly meeting began May the —— day—and many young converts were there, and they had a proper shout in the camp of God—many fell to the floor and cried for mercy, and divers of the inhabitants of the town were awakened. There were three very pious young women who came from Chester town, and who professed that God had sanctified their souls;

and they lived agreeable to their profession; and divers persons flocked to them to enquire the way to glory: they continued in prayer for such, every day, all the week. A number were converted to God, and eighteen joined society, and the old members seemed all on a stretch for the kingdom. Glory to God for a revival in Dover!"

This is the last sentence that I find penned by him. Shortly after, he returned home, in so low a state of health that he was unable to preach, and scarcely able to attend a meeting, where he spent about two months amongst his children and friends. Having recovered his strength a little, in August 1795, he attended quarterly meeting at Murphey's church, on Salem circuit, where he gave an exhortation on Saturday; and the Master of assemblies attended his testimony with the energy of his Holy Spirit, to the joy and consolation of many souls. On Sunday, in the love-feast, in his exhortation, he gave some account of the work of God in divers places; and being filled with faith and the Holy Ghost, he claimed the promises, and the power of the Lord came down upon the congregation in such a manner, that the noise might be heard afar off. Some entreated God for Christ's sake to have mercy on their souls; others shouted praises and adoration to the Most High. Several lay as in the agonies of death; like David, their hearts panted, their strength failed, the light of their eyes was gone, their strength failed because of their iniquity, Psalm xxxviii. 10; or, like Daniel, *there remained no strength in them*, Dan. x. 8. Why should it be thought strange, that a rational creature should tremble and fall to the earth before God, under a sense of his awful presence: Moses informs us, that the brute on which Balaam rode did so, when it

saw the angel of God; and why should not man tremble and fall before the mighty power of God. It was a day of days to many souls, several professed to have found him of whom Moses and the prophets did write, to the joy of their souls; and others, that God had deepened the work in them. Mr. Merick, the presiding elder, preached, and Mr. Abbott gave an exhortation, which was attended with power and a divine energy to many. After meeting, he retired to the widow Ayres's, where he remained for some days, being much broken down. He had a desire to attend Bethel quarterly meeting; but was not able, though only about twelve miles off.

After this, he spent two or three months higher up the state, amongst his friends, and children in the gospel. In the fall he went to Philadelphia, where he spent the winter among the friends; they were very kind to him; in particular, Hugh Smith and wife, for whom he had a great regard. They had had a long acquaintance in that love and fellowship that makes glad the city of God, and uniteth the hearts of christians. Their acquaintance commenced at an early period of methodism, on the Salem circuit, where Mr. Smith at that time resided, and where Mr. Abbott frequently held meetings, in the time of the American revolution, and for some time afterwards. I mention this as a tribute of respect due to Mr. Smith and his wife, who have been for a number of years as pillars in the house of God, and who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and who, I trust, will not lose their reward in their Father's kingdom. But there were other friends also, whose kindness and friendly attention he experienced, and which he gratefully acknowledged.

He returned from Philadelphia, in the spring of 1796, to his son David's, at Upper Alloways creek, where he remained a few days. Being very poorly, and having a particular desire that I should assist him in some things relative to the manuscript of his life, he sent his son David with a request that I would go and spend some time with him for that purpose. But the circumstances of my family were such, at that time, that I could not leave home, for so long a space; especially as Mr. Abbott was in so low a state of health, that he was not able to attend to the business above an hour or two in a day; therefore, I requested him to inform his father, that, if he would come to my house, I would endeavour to assist him in the business. Accordingly, he left his son's to come to my house; but on his way he stopped at his friend judge Smith's, near Quintin's Bridge, to refresh and rest himself, where he was taken very ill, and lay at the point of death for several days. He was treated with the utmost care and respect. Judge Smith has since informed me that during his illness, he often expressed an uneasiness that the account of his life and labours was not compleated to his satisfaction; and that he lamented that he had so long delayed it. However, it pleased God to spare him a little longer; and as soon as he was able, he came to my house in the town of Salem, about the 7th of April 1796, where he remained some time in so poor a state of health, that he was seldom able to perform family duty, or even to set up while it was performed. Twice he attended public meeting; at the first, he baptised two children, gave an exhortation suitable to the occasion, and related some little account of the work of God—The second, and last that ever he attended, was at the funeral of Mrs. Paul, who had died triumphant in the

faith. After the funeral sermon was preached, by Mr. Morford, he arose and gave an exhortation, and particularly addressed himself to Mr. W——, a man whom he had loved as himself, and who had, through the subtilty of Satan, departed from better knowledge. In his exhortation, he called to mind the happy hours that he had spent under his roof; how much he (Mr. W) had done for the cause of God; and how often they had rejoiced together, as fellow labourers in Christ Jesus; and then warned him in the most solemn manner of his impending danger, in the love and fear of God: until tears flowed, his strength failed, and he was unable to speak any longer. While the interment of the corpse took place, Mr. Abbott retired to a friend's house; being unable to attend it---After the interment, Mr. W. addressed the audience on the occasion, and appeared angry, apprehending that he had been ill used. I spoke to him on the occasion, and endeavoured to reason the case with him; but to very little purpose, for he apprehended that I had been the instigator of the supposed affront, and appeared as much offended with me, as with Mr. Abbott. After my return from the interment, I went and informed Mr. Abbott of the matter,---Why, said he, If I were able to take my horse and go and see him, I should not have made use of that opportunity; but as I am not able to go and see him, I was convinced that if I let that opportunity pass, I should never have another; and I thought it was my duty to speak as I did: therefore, I leave the event to God. I am sure, that it cannot hurt him, or do him an injury; for a man that is posting in the broad way to damnation, cannot be easily worsted.---Oh! said he, I have seen the time, that we have rejoiced together, as fellow labourers in Christ, and it grieves my

soul to see that the devil has got the advantage of him !" On Mr. W---'s return home, he wrote a letter to Mr. Abbott, on the occasion, justifying himself and his conduct. However, the Spirit of God fastened it on him, as a nail in a sure place: for at our first quarterly meeting, held at Salem, after Mr. Abbott's death, in the love-feast, Mr. W. rose and openly declared that God had healed all his back-slidings, and that he had made his servant, *Father Abbott*, an instrument in his divine hand to bring about his restoration. I have been the more particular in this relation, because some of our friends were ready to disapprove of Mr. Abbott for making use of, what they thought, a very unsuitable opportunity; but it had its desired effect: Likewise to encourage others to a faithful discharge of their duty, *both in season and out of season;* and in so doing, not to fear men or devils: but in all things to keep an eye single to the glory of God, and good of souls. *In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good*, Eccles. xi. 6.

He was, after this, a few times able to officiate in family worship, in which he had near access to the throne of grace, and was truly solemn, weighty, and profitable. He was ever ready to join us with all his heart and strength in the performance of that solemn duty; although often languishing upon his bed of affliction, while it was performed.

He was at a certain day very desirous of having some things penned, that had lain heavy upon his mind; but being rather more fatigued than usual—"We must give it over, said he, until to-morrow; and I thank God, that in two hours more, with your assistance, I shall be

ready to die." Next day, upon finishing the business, he arose and walked across the floor several times; and in a transport of joy cried out---"I thank God, I am ready to die! I have nothing to do but to die!"

About the 1st of June, having recovered a little strength, and finding himself a little better, he left my house in order to visit my brother's family, some other friends, and his own children; but upon hearing of the death of Mr. B---, a man who had resided in my house, he returned, and attended the funeral. The Rev. I. S---, who had been called by the connections of the deceased, to preach the funeral sermon, observed in his discourse that "Death was the king of terrors, and that he made cowards of us all." After sermon, Mr. Abbott took an opportunity to converse with Mr. S. on the subject; and said, that he did not believe the doctrine: for *perfect love casteth out fear; and he that feareth is not made perfect in love;* and that he believed a state attainable in this life, through grace, that would enable us to shout victory to God and the Lamb, *through the valley of the shadow of death;* nay, through death itself, and *fear no evil.* Also, that he had seen many leave this world in the greatest transport of joy imaginable: and in one or two instances, that he did believe they had seen the angels of God with their bodily eyes, before their departure. "And for my part, said he; I can call God to witness, that death is no terror to me! I am ready to meet my God, if it were now!"

That night he was taken very ill, and continued so for some days; but in the course of a week he appeared to be something better; and at the intercession of his son David, he consented to be moved from my house to his. In

a few days after, I visited him, attended by the Rev. R. Searl, we found him resigned to the will of God, and happy in his love. When about to take our leave of him, " Come, said he, brethren, give us of your oil before you go ;" the family being called together, Mr. Searl addressed the throne of grace, and we had a solemn weighty time: and blessed be God, his lamp had not gone out, nor yet grown dim. His lamp appeared to be bright burning, and well trimmed ; and he had a full supply of oil in his vessel; like the wise virgins mentioned in Matt. xxv. 4.

On Friday, the 12th of August, my brother went to see him, and found him very poorly ; to whom he said, " Brother Ffirth, I am going to die ; and to-morrow you must go to Philadelphia, for brother M'Claskey, to come and preach my funeral sermon :" to which my brother replied, Father Abbott, you may continue for some time yet, as the time of your death is uncertain—" No, said he, I shall die before you would get back from Philadelphia, unless you should travel in the night ;" my brother replied, it will not answer to go before your decease—Why, said he, I shall die, and I do not wish my body kept until it is offensive ; you know the weather is warm, and the distance is considerable ; that is true, replied my brother ; but if I were to go to Philadelphia for brother M'Claskey, to preach your funeral sermon, and you not dead, the friends would laugh at me, and he would not come. " Ah, said he, it may be so ; I never thought of that ; perhaps it will be best to stay until I am dead."

Next day, observing a visible alteration in him, my brother concluded to tarry with him until his exit: during the day, he continued in a rack of excruciating pain ; which he bore

with a christian patience and resignation. He was happy in God, and rejoiced at his approaching dissolution; and seemed much engaged in his soul with God. He appeared to possess his rational faculties to his last moments; and for some time previous thereunto, he was delivered from that excruciating pain, to the joy of his friends: his countenance continued joyful, heavenly, and serene. His last sentence, that was intelligibly articulated, was, "*Glory to God! I see heaven sweetly opened before me!*"—After this, his speech so much failed, that he could not be distinctly understood, only now and then a word, as, *See!—see!—Glory!—Glory!*—&c. And for my own part, I firmly believe that he saw the angels of God, visibly with his eyes, before his exit; who were sent of God to convey his soul to the realms of bliss. That he saw something, which he wished the bye-standers to see, was evident; for looking on them, he often cried out, *See! see!*—pointing with his hand towards the foot of his bed; and then Glory!—glory!—glory!—clapping his hands, and in the greatest raptures or extacies of joy imaginable. Thus he continued until nature was so exhausted, that in attempting to clap his hands, he seldom hit one hand against the other: through faith he was enabled to shout victory to God and the Lamb! The sting of death was plucked out; and death was as a messenger of peace to him: It was to him only like a gate, through which he had to pass to glory: thus in a triumph of faith, and filled with the Holy Ghost, he departed this life, without sigh or groan, about 10 o'clock, on Saturday the 14th of August 1796: aged about 64 years. On the Tuesday following, he was buried in the methodist burial-ground in Salem, New-Jersey. The funeral was attended by a

large number of his christian brethren, acquaintances, and fellow citizens. The Rev. John M'Claskey delivered a pathetic and moving discourse suited to the solemnity of the occasion: at the close of which, the Rev. Nathaniel Harris, of the presbyterian church, put up a prayer, and addressed the throne of grace in behalf of the human family at large, and in particular for his church and people that had sustained so great a loss: but our loss, no doubt, is his eternal gain.

O happy exit! though the body must
Now mingle with its native mother dust;
Yet the bright seraphim, without delay,
Escort his soul along the ethereal way,
To realms, and thrones, and joys of endless day!
Angels and saints, they hail him as he flies!
Lo! "Welcome Abbott!" now each cherub cries;
And hail and shout him welcome to the skies!
Now, hallelujahs to redeeming love,
Resound and echo through the worlds above!
Glory to God, they sing, in anthems new!
Abbott is there, and joins the chorus too.

It may be worthy of notice, that it was the desire of Mr. Abbott, for several years, during his travels, that Providence might so order it, that, when he died, his body might be buried in the methodist meeting-house yard, at Salem, in New-Jersey. After a severe illness, in which he had been brought to the jaws of death, he recovered, in a measure, and returned home; and in a sermon he observed, on this subject,—"I thought when I was on my way home, if it were the will of God, that I might, on my return, end my days and lay my bones among you, my soul would leap for joy; but the will of my God be done." It appears that the Lord granted him his request: for he died at home, and was buried in the yard where he had desired.

The following occurrence, which took place in the course of his life, may deserve attention.

He arose early one morning, in consequence of a dream or vision of the night, and went to the house of Mr. T—, a man of repute and character, and an orderly member of the quaker church, not knowing any thing was the matter with him; but upon enquiring of Mr. T— how he was, he answered that he found himself rather unwell. He then informed him, that he had a message from God unto him, which had been revealed unto him in a vision of the night; and that he had come in the love and fear of the Lord, to warn him to set his house in order, for that *he should die and not live*, and that his days were few. Mr. T— received his message, with a christian fortitude and solemnity, as became the occasion: they spent some time together, conversing on the *one thing needful*. Mr. T—'s complaint increased, and at his request, Mr. Abbott frequently visited him during his illness, which continued about eight or ten days: then he bade adieu to this vale of tears, and I doubt not, but his soul rests in peace.

The following lines were written, on hearing Mr. Abbott preach a farewell sermon (which proved to be his last) in Penn's-neck meeting-house, where he had been an instrument, in the hand of God, not only in laying the foundation of the temporal, but also of the spiritual church; from 2 Cor. xiii. 11. *Finally, brethren, farewell, Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

Be perfect; holiness pursue;
In love, be sure to dwell:
And God, thro' Christ, shall comfort you;
So brethren all farewell.

Be of one mind, give God your hearts,
And of his mercies tell:
Which he, through grace, to you imparts:
So brethren all farewell.

Now live in peace, for Christ is near;
In love strive to excel;
The God of peace shall soon appear;
So brethren all farewell.

The God of love and peace adore,
And all things shall be well.
We in this life shall meet no more;
So brethren all farewell.

The following is a short Account given of BENJAMIN ABBOTT, *by* Hugh Smith, *in a letter to* Ezekiel Cooper.

Philadelphia, October 7, 1801.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WHEREAS you are now publishing the *Experience and Gospel Labours of the late Rev.* Benjamin Abbott; *and a Narrative of his Life and Death, by John Fifrth*—from a conversation which I had with you, some days ago, relative to my acquaintance with, and knowledge of Mr. Abbott, I take up my pen to communicate to you a few particulars, which are in my recollection respecting him. It is very certain that I cannot, at present, accurately call to mind the particular circumstances relative to a great variety of events which I well knew in his life; never having made a minute of them, nor expecting ever to write them, they are so far gone from my memory, that it would take some considerable time to recollect, and arrange them in any methodical order.

In the year of our Lord 1776, I first became intimately acquainted with Mr. Abbott. At that time he was converted to God, and a local preacher in the methodist connection. We then lived near neighbours, met in the same class, and had meetings regularly at his house or mine, so that we were often together. From the time of my first acquaintance with him, as above mentioned, I always took him to be a sincere, zealous and good man. He was instrumental in the hand of God, to the conviction and conversion of a number of our neighbours who turned from their wicked courses to serve the living and the true God. I have known him in the time of harvest, to take his men from the field to go with him to meeting, and yet pay them for the full day's work: so great was his zeal and desire for the people to attend the worship of Almighty God. He was, in my opinion, a man of the greatest faith I ever was acquainted with; he was an agreeable neighbour and a social friend; plain in his manners and deportment; pleasant in his conversation; meek and humble in his spirit: I do not recollect, that ever I saw him even appear to be out of temper; so great was the work grace had done for him.

He appeared, as far as I could judge, to travail in spirit continually for precious souls. He, with great zeal and faith, used to urge conviction, repentance, and conversion, on the ungodly; and among professors, he with equal warmth of zeal and love, would insist on sanctification; and the Lord remarkably blessed his labours. I recollect several meetings, that I was at, where professors experienced the blessing of sanctification, under his ministry. The divine power of sovereign grace, attended his ministry more wonderfully, and constantly, than any one I ever was acquainted with, to the conviction and conversion of sinners, and to the sanctification of believers. He worked hard at his worldly business; but would punctually attend public and private worship, prayer-meetings, society, and other meetings during the week. I have been with him, when after working hard, we have walked a mile to the creek, then, after crossing, walk a mile and a half further to

hold meeting; and after returning, the same week to walk more than three miles to another place to hold meeting; beside, every Sabbath, he would attend at one place or another. Through his instrumentality there was a great reformation among the people.

He used frequently to tell me of his life, and manner of living, during his unregenerate state. While he was an apprentice in Philadelphia, he was a wicked lad, associated with bad company, &c. He used to quarrel and fight frequently. At times, by fighting, he has had his clothes so bloody, that he has stripped them off, and washed them in the night at the pumps in the streets; and frequently instead of going home, he used to sleep in the quaker burying-ground, between the graves; feeling, at that time, no terror from the living or the dead, by night or by day: he then feared not God nor regarded man. When he became a man he was particularly noted for a great fighter; and but few excelled him in divers kinds of vice. He has been known to leave his business, and his dinner, and to walk several miles, to meet a noted fighter, in order to shew his manhood and bravery in that line. He frequently had to appear before the courts of justice, on account of those wicked courses; and he generally pleaded guilty. At one of those courts, a certain gentleman, to whose care public peace and justice was committed, took a private opportunity to prevail on him, to turn out and fight a certain man who was there; for which he treated him with a bowl of punch. Surely, his conversion was a remarkable instance of sovereign grace and divine mercy! The lion became the lamb! The hero in the service of the devil, became a bold veteran in the service of God!

After his conversion, numbers had old grudges against him, and sought to ensnare him divers ways; but, by grace he stood firm, and immoveably attached to the cause of religion, maintaining a bold, uniform, and circumspect life. On a certain occasion, after his conversion, he had to appear before the grand jury, and before they entered on the business for which he was called, he said to the jury, "*Let us first go to prayer!*"

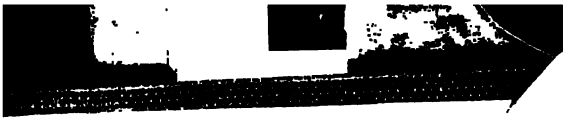
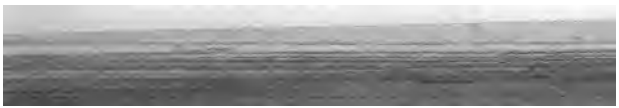
he prayed, they had a solemn time, and one of the jury was struck under conviction. He was much persecuted by the ungodly; but although his oppositions were many, he was nevertheless remarkably useful in his ministry, and in visiting the sick and distressed.

There used to be great crying out, and shouting at his meetings, and such power used to attend his word, that the people were known to fall under it, as though they were shot or cut down by a sword. At one of those powerful times, when the people cried out, and shouted aloud, in cries of prayer and praise, a certain travelling preacher, being then present, strove to stop him and silence the people, and bore his testimony against it; but the work still went on in a wonderful manner; and the preacher, afterward, was very sorry for his opposition, and acknowledged his error, believing that it was the power of God. I recollect a certain instance, when Mr. Abbott had been very sick, and was recovering a little, the friends in the neighbourhood, went to a quarterly meeting some distance off, and I went with them, leaving Mr. A. too unwell to go with us; but after we were gone, he had his horse saddled and followed. I was much surprised when I saw him come, for I had told several that he was sick. After R. G. had preached, he stood up in the pulpit, and the first words he spoke were of his sickness, his apparent inability to come to the meeting, and of his impressions to have his horse saddled to see if he could ride—"But said he, when I put my foot in the stirrup I felt the power of God come upon me, and I was enabled to come," &c. As he spoke those words, the mighty power of God came wonderfully upon the assembly; and I felt, in a moment, as though there was an open expanse before, like eternity of space; I lost sight of every thing else, and fell suddenly to the floor, and cried to God for mercy: this was when I was under conviction, previous to my conversion to God. There was a glorious and wonderful time at that meeting.

I am confidently persuaded, that many will praise God to all eternity, for his goodness, in raising up *Benjamin Abbott* as a minister in the Church of Christ.

His labours were crowned with many seals to his ministry; he was an instrument in turning many to righteousness. After he set out to travel as an itinerant preacher, he laboured in sundry circuits, till he was worn down under his toil and affliction. When he was unable to travel any longer, he came to Philadelphia, to spend the winter with his friends; he staid considerably at my house, and I found that he still possessed the same simplicity of manners, the same zeal, faith and concern for souls, that he had done for twenty years; but his bodily health and strength were exhausted. He retained a clear and strong evidence of his acceptance with God; and appeared sensible that his end drew nigh. He had remarkable patience and resignation, which was visible and wonderful to the family; he appeared all love, and was heavenly in his conversation. I felt a strong desire, that, if it were the will of God, he might die at my house. I should have esteemed it an honour, conferred on me by Providence, had so eminent a saint and servant of God, ended his days under my roof. But he removed in the spring of 1796 to the Jerseys, where he lingered out a few months in weakness and pain of body; but in peace and happiness of soul: then "Closed his eyes to see his God." *Mark the perfect man, the end of that man is peace. Let me die the death of the righteous, and my last end be like his.*

Were I to take some time for recollection, and to minute down the occurrences which were in my knowledge of Mr. Abbot, and to arrange them in order, I believe I might write a volume of interesting circumstances—In a word, he was a wonderful man, a great christian, and a useful minister in the church of Christ; and now (I have no doubt) he shines like a bright star in glory. I am, my dear friend, yours, &c.

HUGH SMITH.

THE END